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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-122
Monday
28 June 1993

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-122

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel's Rubinstein: Jerusalem Not Negotiable

TA2806051393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 28 Jun 93

[Text] The peace talks will resume in Washington this evening. The discussions will center on talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians on the paper the United States intends to submit to the two sides. Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports from Washington:

[Begin recording] [Barqay] It is still unclear whether the United States will officially submit the document it formulated or settle for clarifications in anticipation of the visit of Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator of the Middle East peace talks. The document attempts to neutralize the issue of Jerusalem, saying that it will not be included in the autonomy plan but only in the talks on the permanent arrangement. East Jerusalemites will be able to vote for the self-administration institutions, but the entire territory of Jerusalem will remain under Israeli sovereignty for the time being. At the same time, Israel will have to undertake to avoid unilateral actions in East Jerusalem and in the settlements. Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation, told us this morning that there is talk of a document but that he has not seen any paper yet:

[Rubinstein] I have not perused the U.S. document. Like the Palestinians, we, too, are holding contacts with the Americans, who are discussing with both of us various issues related to the negotiations. If they decide to submit a document—and this is possible—we will have a chance to peruse it.

[Barqay] I assume that you held contacts over the weekend and that you also briefed Jerusalem. As head of the Israeli delegation, were you directed under no circumstances to agree to the inclusion of East Jerusalem in the autonomy plan?

[Rubinstein] This is not a new thing but rather has been anchored in the policy of Israeli governments since Madrid, and this has not changed. Jerusalem is not negotiable, and we are simply not dealing with this issue. It is regrettable that the Palestinians have increased the number of problematic issues by adding this issue, when there is so much that can be done. It is a shame to waste time on things that cannot be dealt with, when there is so much that can be done.

[Barqay] Would you recommend to the government to agree to opening the issue of East Jerusalem when we approach the permanent arrangement stage?

[Rubinstein] The Israeli Government's policy on this issue is well known. I think we face a tremendous challenge here in forging the interim arrangement. We are not interested in dealing with the permanent arrangement. As far as we are concerned, Jerusalem is not an issue that we are dealing with in the negotiations.

[Barqay] This is the third week of the 10th round of talks, and we have still not secured a document. Does this not constitute a failure?

[Rubinstein] Obviously, like any Israeli and any negotiator, I would be happy had the results been better. I must say that the other side must meet us halfway. This is in fact a precondition for moving things forward.

[Barqay] The last week of the 10th round is opening today in Washington, and everything is still at a standstill. [end recording]

Al-Husayni on Jerusalem Issue, Draft Declaration

TA2506182993 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, by Shlomo Ganor "this evening" in Washington—recorded]

[Text] [Ganor] Mr. al-Husayni, could you please evaluate the current round's results at the end of the second week?

[Al-Husayni] We cannot talk about results, but I can say that this round has been one of U.S. intensification. This is a round in which there have been intensive contacts with the Americans more than anything else.

[Ganor] The Israeli side is saying that raising the issue of Jerusalem at this stage, in contravention of what was agreed on, means harming the chances of progress. Are you risking the derailment of the talks?

[Al-Husayni] Talk about the future of Jerusalem—the East and West, all Jerusalem—is something that has been left for the final stage. As for the details and course of life in East Jerusalem, this is part of the agreement and should be arranged. Everything relating to the negotiating process collides one way or another with the issue of Jerusalem. If we talk about elections, we collide with Jerusalem. If we talk about jurisdiction, we are talking about Jerusalem. Consequently, we are talking about a transitional stage in which daily life in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, is addressed.

[Ganor] Why do you object to the proposal that transfers most of the powers to you, as in the Israeli proposal?

[Al-Husayni] First of all, this is not a transfering of most powers, but of some of them. However, we need foremost of all to study all these matters. Secondly, if we take over all these affairs during this period, we have to know what sort of budget will be in our hands to manage those affairs. Where will we receive the funds to develop this budget? Will the other elements and tools of tax collection be in our hands or in the hands of other powers? All these things require further discussion, and I believe that it is premature to decide now.

[Ganor] Are there any points in the draft declaration of principles on which agreement has been reached?

[Al-Husayni] Allow me to say that those points have been discussed. There are some points on which we believe that full agreement could be reached, but there are other points which Israel is still afraid to raise at the negotiating table or for discussion. If this thing is worked out, we will be able to produce a document of declaration of principles.

[Ganor] What are the chances of reaching such a document by the end of this round?

[Al-Husayni] I believe the chances are good if we can manage to overcome some of the sensitivities here and there.

[Ganor] You mentioned points of convergence, can you spell them out?

[Al-Husayni] I do not want to talk in detail about those points. Let us wait until next week; perhaps we will achieve better results.

[Ganor] At the beginning of the interview you mentioned the U.S. role. The question is: Are you satisfied up to now with the U.S. role in the talks?

[Al-Husayni] In this round the Americans are exerting an effort that we believe is adequate. So far we have not seen the results of this effort. It would be premature to pass judgment before we see its results.

Advocates Dual Capital

JN2506183093 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] Sources in the Palestinian negotiating delegation have affirmed that Israel's intransigence is the main reason why no worthwhile progress was made during the second week of negotiations on the Palestinian track or on the draft declaration of principles. The Palestinian sources pointed out that the real Israeli intentions were shown by annexing Jerusalem, escalating the situation in the occupied territories, failing to honor human rights commitments, and attempting to use the Palestinian people as a tool of pressure and blackmail.

The second week of the 10th round on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks ended earlier yesterday. Talks dealt with Israel's withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon, but no breakthrough was made.

Asked by our correspondent in Washington about the nature of the negotiations, the outcome of the talks, and the role of the U.S., [Palestinian delegation leader] Faysal al-Husayni said:

[Begin recording] [Al-Husayni] There is a large and intensive U.S. [?role] that tries to realize certain concepts. We hope this matter will yield results, taking into account the lessons learned from the ninth round.

[Correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab] Does this mean that the current Palestinian-U.S. talks seek U.S. pressure on Israel, for example, or fresh U.S. efforts?

[Al-Husayni] We do not say these talks try to realize a declaration of principles that can meet Palestinian demands. What is required now is to clarify Jerusalem's status. I am from Jerusalem. I do not like to see it divided. Jerusalem is now a divided city. It is very obvious that there are two parts of Jerusalem, one under occupation and the other assuming the tasks of the occupier. We seek an open Jerusalem, but its eastern part should be a Palestinian capital, while its western part can be an Israeli capital. But Jerusalem should be an open city with open boundaries. [end recording]

'Ashrawi: Jerusalem Obstacle to Talks' Progress

PM2506132093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Jun 93 p 5

[Interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, by unidentified correspondent in Washington; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAYAH] What is happening? Is East Jerusalem the fundamental problem?

['Ashrawi] Jerusalem is still the problem, and in fact there is nothing new.

[AL-HAYAH] What is happening in the talks with the Americans?

['Ashrawi] We are trying to clarify the Palestinian position, especially the fundamental points without which no progress can be made, with the emphasis on the need for a joint declaration of principles. They have not so far submitted any document to us.

[AL-HAYAH] There has been talk to the effect that the Americans asked the Palestinian delegation to leave the east Jerusalem issue aside.

['Ashrawi] No. They cannot do that.

[AL-HAYAH] Didn't they say that?

['Ashrawi] They say that there are very difficult issues and what the means to resolve them are. We say that it should be discussed, regardless of the difficulty of these issues. They cannot tell us to leave Jerusalem aside, because they know from the beginning that the Palestinians are not prepared to put Jerusalem aside.

[AL-HAYAH] Does that mean that Jerusalem will be included in the draft declaration of principle?

['Ashrawi] I do not know. We included and insist on the inclusion of Jerusalem as a condition without which nothing can be achieved, that is, without defining the geographical scope and geographical jurisdiction, which includes all the territories occupied in 1967. We are talking about nothing else. Jerusalem, the settlements, and geographical jurisdiction are fundamental questions.

[AL-HAYAH] So it is difficult to produce a draft U.S. plan?

['Ashrawi] We do not know. We are not drafting the U.S. plan. We are talking with them to clarify our position.

[AL-HAYAH] What is the general picture? For example, there is a big disagreement on the Lebanese-Israeli track and no progress on the Syrian-Israeli track. Everyone feels that the entire process is in danger.

['Ashrawi] There is also a deadlock on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

[AL-HAYAH] The impression is that there are no "negotiations" on the Palestinian-Israeli track, but, rather, Palestinian-U.S. talks.

['Ashrawi] Yes. The Israelis are not negotiating. It seems that they have no intention of negotiating... (laughing). It is difficult to analyze the situation amid the confusion and determine the reason for the Israeli standstill.

[AL-HAYAH] What is the mood of the special coordinator Dennis Ross, especially today (yesterday) as he began his meeting with you as head of the U.S. team?

['Ashrawi] His mood is that he is confident that the United States will play its role actively, that the change which has occurred is a qualitative change, that there is a new phase, and that the U.S. role will be effective and decisive. Thus he is confident that he can achieve progress. We say, go ahead, provided that it is not done at our expense (laughing). This is what we have always said: We want U.S. intervention, but not by increasing the imparity or adopting a position supporting Israel, hence making us appear as though we are negotiating with two parties.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you feel that the present administration's policy differs from the former administration's policy?

['Ashrawi] I do not want to talk about the change in the administration's policies. But, of course, there are Palestinian sources in the delegation and close to the delegation which say that this administration's positions are bad, because there is a backtracking on the fundamental issues, especially with regard to the guarantees letter, toward a clearer bias toward Israel. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] What about [chief delegate] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi's statement that the time has come to suspend the negotiations?

['Ashrawi] I do not want to comment, especially as the decision to participate or not is not taken by the negotiating delegation.

[AL-HAYAH] On that basis, is there any possibility of achieving anything in this round?

['Ashrawi] It does not seem so. We are working with the Americans, dealing with matters seriously, and explaining and providing the details, arguments, and logical views. But it does not mean that the Americans or the Israelis will espouse these ideas. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] From watching the various tracks, it is noticeable that the Israeli position has been consistent, in the sense that it has not acknowledged that the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are occupied territories, nor has it acknowledged that its presence in Lebanon and the Golan is an occupation. Does all this contravene the foundations of the Madrid conference?

['Ashrawi] Yes, certainly it contravenes the authority of the peace conference.

[AL-HAYAH] And what is the U.S. position in this connection?

['Ashrawi] They are not saying much. They say: We consider the territory occupied. But this is not sufficient, even if Israel says the same. What is required is for it to act on that basis. This means that Israel does not recognize the authority and foundation of the negotiation process. We sat down for 14 months to get Israel to recognize that the basis of the negotiations is Resolution 242, and it has not yet admitted that its aim is to implement Resolution 242. And of what use is its recognition of Resolution 242, when it is refusing to admit that it is an occupying state. Israel is trying to tamper with and get round this authority. It wants normalization, peace, and acceptance without paying a price. This price is to return what does not belong to it. It is the arrogance of power. And there are those who are "giving it free rein." In fact when they intervened in Israel's favor they did so to persuade us to accept its position. Maybe it should not continue to seek U.S. intervention. This is in the knowledge that the Israelis have begun to say in this round that they need the Americans. Perhaps because that might help them. Because if they were sure of everything, they would not have sought U.S. intervention.

Delegation Issues Statement on Guards' Training

TA2506162293 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
25 Jun 93 pp 1, 11

[By Salah al-Zuhaykah]

[Text] Washington—A responsible source in the Palestinian delegation has clarified the nature of the mission of a group of youths who were sent to Amman last week to receive training in guard duties, as follows:

First: This small group has no connection whatsoever with, nor does it fall in the framework of, the proposed Palestinian police force.

Second: This group will be trained to guard Palestinian institutions during the transitional stage.

Third: This group will not be trained in the use of any kind of weapons nor will it carry arms when it returns. How can one conceive that this group would carry weapons if it cannot defend a Palestinian boy who is hit and insulted by an Israeli soldier? Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian team, made a statement to this effect some time ago.

Fourth: The Palestinian delegation does not need to be protected from the sons of our Palestinian people. However, we must assume responsibility for guarding the delegation's headquarters, branches, and institutions in Gaza, Jerusalem, Nabulus, or Hebron from any potential attacks that might be carried out by Israeli settlers or thieves, especially since those headquarters contain all the material relating to the ongoing negotiating process.

Fifth: The responsibility of safeguarding international political figures visiting the delegation's headquarters, whether in Jerusalem or Gaza, is a full Palestinian responsibility. No Israeli security agency is involved in any way in protecting our headquarters and guests.

Sixth: By disseminating more than once reports that Palestinian public and political figures, as well as some Palestinian institutions, are exposed to attacks, Israeli security sources are trying, without specifying the source of those attacks, to assume or impose Israeli guardianship on us. Our response is that this is something that concerns our own safety and, consequently, it is we who should determine the ways and means of protection and its elements.

Seventh: In light of what was stated in the sixth point, we embarked on adopting the appropriate measures to cover our security needs. Those measures include training groups of our youths to handle guard duty and security at an acceptable level in accordance with international standards, because as stated, one of their tasks will be to protect the safety and lives of our foreign guests who visit our headquarters.

Eighth: We hope that we have managed to clarify this matter and to place it in its proper context. We also hope that our people will not pay attention to rumors circulated by the fifth column, which is lying in wait in a desperate attempt to fragment and split our people's internal unity while our negotiating delegation is waging a vicious political battle to consolidate our legitimate and just Palestinian rights, foremost of which is the establishment of our independent Palestinian state and its capital, holy Jerusalem.

Palestinian Delegates Meet With King Husayn

JN2506122093 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] In Washington, His Majesty King Husayn has received a number of the Palestinian peace negotiators. The delegation was headed by Mr. Faysal al-Husayni. Mr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Nabil Sha'th, and Akram Haniyyah attended the meeting. His majesty was briefed on the peace process on the Palestinian-Israeli track. His majesty expressed appreciation for the team's efforts and their moral and physical courage in defending the Arab Palestinian people's national and political rights. His majesty emphasized the importance of the Arab coordination, and in particular between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides. The meeting was attended by the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, his majesty's military secretary, and Jordan's ambassador in Washington.

Jordanian Spokesman Says Israel Stalling on Issues

JN2506134093 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Excerpt] The second week of the 10th round of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations has ended in Washington. Spokesman of the Jordanian delegation, Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, said that the Jordanian negotiators focused on the issue of family reunion, in addition to other topics related to Jordanians rights, particularly water and the occupied Jordanian territory. Mr. al-Mu'ashshir said that the Jordanians felt that the Israeli side had no clear decision on those issues and was trying to postpone giving a direct reply.

Al-Mu'ashshir said that the Jordanians stressed that a Middle East peace settlement should be comprehensive and there should be progress on all Arab tracks. He added that the American Administration indicated readiness to play an active role in the peace process. He said there are clues that the U.S. Administration would interfere on all tracks and particularly the Palestinian-Israeli track so as to achieve progress. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Expresses Regret Over U.S. Strike

NC2706140493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1308 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA)—The Arab League has expressed its deep regret over the U.S. military strike on Baghdad that led to the death and injury of a large number of innocent Iraqi people.

A statement issued by the Arab League General Secretariat affirmed that the use of force in dealing with international problems, without a resolution from the Security Council in its capacity as the authority responsible for international legitimacy, entails dangers incompatible with the sincere inclination toward setting up a new world order based on respect for international legitimacy. This use of force also provokes painful psychological emotions for the nations subjected to such acts.

The statement said the League's General Secretariat reiterates its full condemnation of all forms of terrorism, including the attempt to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush in the fraternal state of Kuwait.

The statement added that a public trial of the suspects in this case is still in progress to ensure justice and reveal the truth.

The statement said that, while the General Secretariat draws the international community's attention to Israeli measures against the Palestinian people and residents of the occupied Arab territories and the Serbs' crimes against the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, it asserts the need to put an end to the double standard policy in dealing with international issues and problems so that the nations of the world will feel that the new world order is based on international legitimacy and commitment to the principles of international law and human rights.

Arab Lawyers Union Denounces Assault on Iraq

NC2706180493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1739 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA)—The Arab Lawyers Union issued a statement this evening denouncing the U.S. aggression against Iraq yesterday. The statement said that terrorizing the Iraqi people and bombarding vital and civilian Iraqi targets constitutes a flagrant aggression against Iraq and a violation of its sovereignty and security, as well as international law and the UN Charter.

The statement said that the U.S. Administration's assuming the role of judge and jury would turn our world into "a big jungle" where power prevails, annulling the UN role and destroying all pillars of international law and the values of peace and justice to which the people of the world look.

The statement expressed the Arab Lawyers Union's support for the Iraqi people and rejection of U.S. military action, blockade of Iraq, and starving its people. It called for activating the UN role in addressing regional crises so that peace, justice, and security may prevail in international relations.

Palestinian Affairs

Factions Denounce U.S. Raid on Baghdad

JN2806090693 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Sana' al-Imam dispatch from Damascus carried within the "Panorama" program]

[Text] The Palestinian organizations in Damascus have denounced the recent U.S. aggression against Iraq. The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has called on the Arab people to rebuild Arab solidarity and deter the occupiers and the aggressors. The DFLP called on the Arab countries to lift the siege imposed on Iraq and Libya and to suspend the bilateral talks to lift the siege of Jerusalem and the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] denounced the aggression against Baghdad and viewed the U.S. raid as more proof that Clinton's administration pursues Bush's policy based on aggression and disregard for the Arab individual's human rights and for international organizations, specifically the United Nations. The PFLP stated that the U.S. Administration did not even bother to consult the United Nations or have it adopt a resolution as has been the case before every other aggression. The PFLP also said that this aggression confirms the U.S. Administration's bias to Israel which is the major obstacle in the current Washington negotiations.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [DFLP-GC] condemned the raid and said it embodies the barbaric U.S. policy toward the world. THE DFLP-GC said that the justifications for the raid are flimsy and inconclusive and are not based on legal facts. The front added that the raid is a provocation to the Arab nation, irrespective of what the Iraqi regime truly is.

The Palestine National Liberation Movement, Fatah said the U.S. aggression primarily seeks to dismember Iraqi territorial integrity and to impose hegemony on the Palestinian cause. The Front called on the Arab masses to be alert to the dimensions of the U.S. Administration's plan to subdue the region in accordance with its interests but within the framework of international legitimacy.

Commentary Assails U.S. Attack on Iraq, Negativism

LD2706191093 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, once again America rekindles the Gulf fires and exposes for the thousandth time its hostile nature, despite its boasting and claims about setting up a new world order based on the resolutions of international legitimacy. Despite the blockade and its tightening of the noose imposed on the Arab Muslim people in Iraq for three years, within the framework of a real war, America again fired missiles yesterday, causing considerable losses to Iraqi civilians. This aggression cannot be justified in any way. President Clinton, in justifying the attack, announced that this strike came in response to what he claimed was the attempt to assassinate former President Bush during his visit to Kuwait some time ago.

If we know that former President Bush has, since his defeat in the elections, become a mere ordinary American citizen, America is thus ready to strike and bomb a peaceful country and peaceful civilians on the mere suspicion that some elements of this country attempted to assassinate an American citizen. The distinction that is the greatest cause of astonishment is that the United States has continued, since the end of the Gulf war, to hatch plans and make secret and declared plots to assassinate Iraqi President Saddam Husayn even though this contradicts the so-called resolutions of international legitimacy. It is interference in the affairs of the fraternal Iraqi people, who are the only ones who can change or keep their presidents. This is none of America's business nor that of the states allied with it.

The thing that is a cause of astonishment is the stagnation and negativism that prevails over Arab and Islamic public opinion toward the continuous blockade and aggression in all its forms against the fraternal Iraqi people, using various fabricated pretexts that have nothing to do with reality or adherence to the conventions and laws of justice and right.

America is accustomed to justifying its aggression against the fraternal Iraqi people by saying that Iraq refused to implements what it calls the UN Security Council resolutions. Are we not entitled today to ask for the thousandth time: Where are the UN Security Council resolutions being applied against the *Zionist* entity, which is pursuing the ugliest forms of killing and destruction against the sons of our Palestinian people? We find America itself involved in aiding the enemies, so that they rebel against the Security Council resolutions, by staging American scenarios to get around these resolutions to save the *Zionist* enemy from being forced to implement them. The best example is the U.S.-Israeli scenarios to get round Resolution 799, which calls for the repatriation of the deportees at Marj al-Zuhur.

Are we not entitled to ask: Where are the UN Security Council resolutions being applied against the Serbs and Croats who have been staging mass executions against the Muslims in Bosnia. Where is he who does not remember the Vance-Owen plan, which was rejected by the Serbs, when the Americans did nothing? America refused to send the same soldiers to Bosnia out of fear for their lives at a time when it sent nearly half a million men to the Gulf for the sake of uncovering the truth [as heard]. Oil at this rate is the truth, and slaughtering the Muslims also is the truth.

Only a few days ago, America bombed Somalia. It killed scores of civilians within the framework of applying Security Council resolutions under an international umbrella.

The latest U.S. aggression against the fraternal Iraqi people, who have been enduring the siege for three years, has been carried out under the pretext of implementing the Security Council resolutions at a time when the UN Security Council laws, resolutions, and human rights charter are being breached in other areas.

All this must inevitably force the Islamic Arab nation to reexamine its negative stands. This aggression should be denounced internationally because this new world order should not be at the expense of the Arab and Islamic nation. We say "no" to a world order that has to be imposed by American force.

PNC Official Renews Denial of 'Arafat Resignation

NC2706150793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA)—Palestine National Council Secretary Muhammad Subayh has once again denied reports that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has resigned his chairmanship of Fatah, the key PLO movement. He described the report as completely untrue, asserting that 'Arafat is still Fatah chairman.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Subayh said that the Fatah Central Committee decided at its meeting last week to form several subcommittees to assess the ongoing Palestinian-Israeli talks, discuss Fatah's critical financial situation, and work for keeping up dialogue with the various Palestinian factions and figures.

An Arab newspaper had quoted 'Abbas Zaki, member of the Fatah Central Committee, as saying that 'Arafat has actually resigned his chairmanship of the movement because of deep differences emerging recently with some Central Committee members.

Fatah's Zaki Discusses Tunis Meeting, Peace Talks

JN2606104793 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Jun 93 p 29

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] The Fatah Movement, the major Palestinian faction, has decided that it will not unilaterally sign an agreement imposed by the outcome of the 10th round of the peace talks. It will not sign an agreement away from the Palestinian consensus, all-out national dialogue, and the PLO establishments—namely the PLO Central Council and the Palestine National Council—whether this agreement is a declaration of principles or framework agreement.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, 'Abbas Zaki, member of the Fatah Central Committee, who returned from Tunis yesterday where he attended the Fatah Central Committee meetings, denied that any split took place within the Fatah Movement at the meetings. He stressed that what took place was a high level of open dialogue that the movement has not experienced since its birth in 1965.

Zaki also denied that the Fatah Central Committee meetings have ended, stressing that the meetings are still open. He added that the meetings were suspended because of the official invitation extended to President [Yasir] 'Arafat from [Egyptian President Husni] Mubarak to participate in the African summit in Cairo, in his capacity as president of the state of Palestine. This is in addition to the visits to Moscow and Portugal by [PLO Executive Committee members] Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, and Faruq Qaddumi, alias Abu-al-Lutf.

Answering a question on the resignation of Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] from the Central Committee, Zaki said: We have overcome the problem of brother leader Abu-'Ammar's resignation, and the meetings resumed under his leadership and with his effective participation. He regretted the clamor made on this issue, and expressed the belief that the enormity of what was said during these days emphasizes the effective role of the Fatah Movement within the Palestinian people in particular and the Middle East in general.

He said: We will not bury our heads in the sand. I say openly that we in the Fatah Movement have internal, administrative, organizational, and financial problems. These problems, he added, were caused by the movement's role as the leader of the Palestinian struggle within the PLO framework, by the distribution of the Fatah cadres in various geographical areas, and by both the decline of Arab liberation movement and the tight Israeli-Western siege imposed on our people in the occupied homeland.

Zaki said: All these challenges have left their marks on our efforts and management and way of dealing within the movement. In such a crucial stage, a comprehensive and intensive review should have been made, taking into consideration the higher national interest rather than the interest of the movement, and the interest of the movement rather than the interest of the leader or that of the leadership members.

He added that since last January, the Central Committee and the Revolutionary Council have been working on a program for internal reform, but that they were unable to do so for more than one reason.

Zaki said: We began our meetings in Tunis on 19 June amid the aggravating political crisis caused by the stalemate in the negotiations, the complete U.S. bias toward Israel, the aggravating economic crisis of our establishments in the occupied territories, and the impact of the 39-month Arab siege imposed on the PLO by an American decision and the boycott of the PLO. He added that this led to a situation in which the salaries of the Palestine Liberation Army—"the forces that are paid by the [PLO] Financial Department"—have not been paid for the last three months, since March, in addition to irregular payments to several other PLO establishments and organs.

Zaki added that the financial crisis and the political crisis in the negotiations, in addition to other crises led this meeting to open the full dossier and devote this session of the Central Committee to the internal situation, in order to end lenience in relations among the Central Committee members, in performance, and in action. He added that organizational issues topped the agenda, and were followed by financial issues and austerity measures. These issues were followed by topics related to struggle in the occupied territories, then by issues of national unity—"internal dialogue".

The fifth point on the agenda was the general political situation, Zaki said. He added: This was something different for the Fatah Movement. We tried to give priority to the internal issues, although this was not always followed because the political issues were raised by some speakers, but internal issues were the most prominent. Democracy is the secret of our movement's life.

He stressed that the meetings witnessed unusual violent confrontations. This emphasized the depth of our affiliation to our homeland, Palestine, and our eagerness to maintain the movement, the dialogue, and the cause for whose sake we vowed to have either victory or martyrdom.

Zaki added: At the end the meeting, we decided that it would be in the national interest to have the leader rehabilitated and to restore respect for the institutions. To achieve this, the following four committees have been formed:

1. A fact-finding committee on various financial and organizational issues.

2. A financial committee to audit financial issues.

3. A committee for comprehensive national dialogue.

4. A committee to evaluate the cadres, the establishments, and individuals in the Fatah Movement.

He added that an agreement was also reached to implement the statute of the movement, to adopt plans and programs, and to deal with various issues seriously and in a responsible manner.

Al-Hasan on Factional Differences, Negotiations

JN2806105793 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1940 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Interview with Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member, by Ghassan Abu-Hamad; place and date not given—recorded; from the "Today's Guest" program]

[Text] [Abu-Hamad] Brother Hani al-Hasan, Radio Monte Carlo welcomes you. The 10th round of the Middle East peace negotiations has begun. This time the PLO is facing crucial issues, but while facing these crucial issues the Palestinian house is still suffering from conflicting views. Even the Fatah Liberation Movement, the mainstream Palestinian faction, witnessed serious differences during its leadership meetings in Tunis. Brother Hani al-Hasan, what happened in Tunis, and why?

[Al-Hasan] It is a fact that the movements are known for their vigor. When you have such vigor and effective political practices, you also have different viewpoints. As you, brother Ghassan know, only the dead can agree on things. Added to this is the prevailing political situation that has entered a critical phase. The results that the

1967 war had on the eastern front are now being decided, just as the Camp David Accords decided the political fate of the Egyptian front. Hence, we can say that the issues now being discussed are crucial ones, and people have different opinions about them. Undoubtedly, no one can deny that there is a difference in views on the 10th round and the negotiations in general and that this difference is reflected in all Palestinian quarters. There is a group that is for the talks, and there is another group—which is no less important than the first group—that is opposed to the talks. What is important is to clarify two points. The first is that in the Fatah Movement, we always agree that we can disagree without breaking up. Democratic action is represented in these two sides of the equation. The second fact is that no one in the Palestinian arena rejects making political gains, but the question is: Are there really political gains for the Palestinian people from this process?

We have discussed this subject in the Fatah Central Committee. The objective of the dialogue and discussions was how to entrench Fatah cohesion since Fatah is the generator of the Palestinian revolutionary movement. How do you preserve Palestinian national unity? How do you preserve the all-out Palestinian national objective? These are the revolution's issues: The unity of organization, unity of people, and rallying behind the comprehensive national objective. We have made appropriate decisions about all these issues.

[Abu-Hamad] Brother Hani, there was talk about corruption and misadministration. Why were such things said and in such a manner?

[Al-Hasan] This was one of the points about which we had lengthy discussions. Though there is much exaggeration on that issue, we have decided to examine all the issues that had been raised.

[Abu-Hamad] It is said that Hani al-Hasan has a special plan within Fatah Movement. Can you brief us with some features of this plan?

[Al-Hasan] In fact, let me explain this point in the following form: I personally, in view of my long political experience, believe from the beginning that the letter of invitation, based on which we went to the negotiations, will not lead to Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank. Therefore, efforts should be concentrated. We should not run after the Labor Party, which is more dangerous—in its tactics—than Shamir's party. In order to force Israel to withdraw from all the land it occupied in 1967, the intifadah should be escalated, real national unity should be established, more Arab coordination should be made—this coordination should include all Arab countries concerned with peace in the region, not only the five countries, Egypt and the four states, but North African and Gulf states should join these countries. It has been proved that what is presented will not lead to Israeli withdrawal. Furthermore, it will not lead to real self-rule.

[Abu-Hamad] Then, the negotiations taking place with Israel are not aimed at reaching self-rule in the occupied territories?

[Al-Hasan] The Israelis want self-rule in their way. Brother Ghassan, you know that there are 20 ways in which self-rule can be interpreted. We want self-rule, which means that they gradually hand the land over to us, not hand over jobs. What is currently presented is how the Palestinians assume the health and educational jobs, which are jobs that have been in the Palestinian hands in the past. They want to divide the West Bank into three separate cantons in which the Palestinians practice their authority. When they present the idea of Gaza First, they propose withdrawal from Gaza. Don't believe that what is presented is withdrawal from Gaza. After they have divided the solution, they want now to divide the implementation of the self-rule plan. We begin with Gaza, then we wait until we move elsewhere in the West Bank, then to a third and a fourth area. In this way, we do not preserve the all-out national objective. Therefore, the Central Committee made a decision that the process should be corrected toward commitment to the principles of the international legitimacy and implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338—these resolutions that Israel refuses to implement at the current stage. Hence, there is a real political difference with the Israelis. Regrettably, the Americans at present are not an honest party. They started to be biased toward the Israeli side. Hence, as the Central Committee decided, the European and UN roles should be pushed forward.

Al-Ju'bah Proposes Jerusalem as United Capital

TA2806061093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 28 Jun 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Nazmi al-Ju'bah, advisory committee member, by Shalom Qital—live]

[Text] [Qital] Good morning to you, Dr. Nazmi al-Ju'bah.

[Al-Ju'bah] Good morning.

[Qital] Do you not think that by raising the issue of Jerusalem, the Palestinians may torpedo the talks?

[Al-Ju'bah] I do not know why the Israelis are suddenly saying that the Palestinian delegation has raised the issue of Jerusalem in the negotiations only now. Jerusalem has been on the negotiating table from the beginning. From the first day of the talks, we said that there can be no interim stage and no agreement without the inclusion of East Jerusalem. We have continuously addressed the issue of Jerusalem and the settlements in the framework of talks on the interim stage. All these issues have been on the negotiating table from the beginning.

[Qital] The fact that you raised this issue, however, does not make it part of the rules stipulated at the Madrid conference and the autonomy talks.

[Al-Ju'bah] I do not know why you are saying this. The document we received from the Americans clearly says that the Palestinian delegation can raise any issue it wants at the negotiating table, including Jerusalem.

[Qital] Tell me, Dr. al-Ju'bah: Is it possible that the United States is saying one thing to the Palestinians and another to the Israelis?

[Al-Ju'bah] I am not talking about what they said but rather what they wrote. We have a written document to that effect, and this is our understanding. It is true, however, that the language used by the Americans is somewhat ambiguous.

[Qital] Well, our own languages here in the Middle East are also quite ambiguous.

[Al-Ju'bah] True.

[Qital] Do you think it is possible to make progress by bypassing the land mine of Jerusalem?

[Al-Ju'bah] Jerusalem is a key issue. It is the biggest problem in all the peace talks. I think we cannot forge any agreement without dealing with the issue of East Jerusalem. We are willing to evince openness toward the Israelis regarding several issues, including East Jerusalem. We cannot accept the Israeli claim, however, that Jerusalem is not negotiable.

[Qital] What is there to talk about? Do you believe that it is possible and desirable to divide Jerusalem?

[Al-Ju'bah] I am expressing my private opinion when I tell you here that I do not believe we can redivide Jerusalem. I think that we can accept a united Jerusalem, as long as it is under joint Palestinian-Israeli rule. We cannot accept a situation wherein Jerusalem is the capital of Israel alone.

[Qital] How do you picture this arrangement? How will it be carried out in practical terms?

[Al-Ju'bah] Jerusalem can serve as two capitals for the two nations. It is also possible that it will not be the capital of either of the two but will nevertheless be jointly ruled by the Palestinians and Israelis. The most excellent and ideal solution would be, however, if Jerusalem is the united capital of the two nations.

[Qital] Do you accept a solution wherein the Palestinians receive a quarter in Jerusalem, as well as various symbolic authorities on the Temple Mount?

[Al-Ju'bah] Our problem does not relate to any particular quarter of Jerusalem but rather to Jerusalem that was occupied in 1967. We are speaking about all of East Jerusalem.

[Qital] So you want Jerusalem to be one city that will be defined somehow as the capital of the two nations?

[Al-Ju'bah] That is correct.

[Qital] Thank you very much, Dr. al-Ju'bah.

'Arafat Adviser Says Israel Should Meet With PLO

LD2606205993 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Text] Brother Nabil Sha'th, the political adviser of brother President Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and who is in charge of the work of the Palestinian delegation, has suggested that the Palestinians and Israelis should talk immediately about the final settlement of the occupied territories, asserting that the Israelis should negotiate directly with the PLO.

Sha'th added: There should be an end to the false accusations being made to artificially distinguish between the Palestinians who live inside the occupied territories and those of the diaspora. He asserted that the examination of the final settlement might help the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations to overcome the current crisis.

Sha'th went on to say: Had we been confident that our right to Jerusalem and the rest of the territories that were occupied in 1967 would remain unchanged in the final settlement, it would have been much easier for us to negotiate the transitional period and the Palestinians would not have bothered to make this proposal.

He affirmed that talks about the final settlement should start much sooner than the date suggested in the letter of invitation because the quicker we examine the final settlement, the sooner the Palestinian people can see the light at the end of the tunnel, and the better our position will be to reach a solution.

Brother Sha'th expected the Americans to come up with a document on their thoughts on how to overcome the crisis facing the peace process before the end of the 10th round of peace talks.

He added: They [the Americans] knew what was wrong with the peace process that has not made any progress during the past 20 months of the peace talks. Sha'th believed that although the Palestinians were also making a slow progress; they were making steady progress toward their goals.

U S. Said To Agree To Resume Dialogue With PLO

NC2706085593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0831 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Dubayy, 27 Jun (MENA)—Palestinian sources say the United States has agreed in principle to resume the dialogue with the PLO. A meeting between a senior PLO official and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is expected to be held in Cairo when Christopher visits next month on a regional tour.

The newspaper AL-BAYAN says the step aims to pave the way for the PLO's official participation in the Arab-Israeli talks following a recent Egyptian request to the U.S. Administration.

The newspaper says Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, will represent the PLO in the U.S.-Palestinian meeting. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views U.S. Stand at Peace Talks

LD2606210493 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, the next few days until the end of the 10th round of negotiations will be a decisive turning point, not only as far as the future of the peace march is concerned, but also for the future of the situation in the region in general and in the occupied territories in particular. The people are becoming more convinced that failure to achieve essential progress at this round will face the entire peace march with a loss of credibility and worthiness.

The line that separates pessimism and optimism is the same as the line that separates peace and the lack of it. If the experience of previous rounds caused feelings of despair and pessimism because they gave no indiciation that we were standing at the beginning of the road leading to a just and comprehensive peace, a follower of the 10th round of negotiations since its beginning in the middle of this month cannot see from the indicators anything which may indicate a change in the situation or strengthen the conviction that the time is approaching for bridging the deep gap that separates Arab and Israeli stands on various aspects of the negotiations.

This was reaffirmed by statements made by the spokesmen of the Arab and Israeli delegations two days ago. In the middle of this situation came the statement by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher the night before last in which he expressed optimism regarding progress in this round and noting that the United States will effectively participate in order to accomplish such progress.

This optimism makes us ask what it is based on and will the desired progress, based on the UN resolutions, be realized or will the fate of the new attempts by the United States to bridge the gap of differences between the two sides—the Palestinian and the Israeli—be the same fate as that of the American attempt at the ninth round when Washington submitted proposals for a joint declaration, thus clearly being biased toward Israel?

In fact, and despite the fact that we as Palestinians wish to see essential and real progress that will lay the foundation for a real launch toward a just and comprehensive peace, we do not yet know what the United States' optimism is based on, when Israel does not show any retreat from the stands that are a major obstacle at the negotiations, especially with regard to the question of Jerusalem, the situation in the occupied territories, and the issues of settlement and others.

Despite the past bitter experiences regarding the United States' promises, undertakings, and appraisals of the progress of the negotiations, and if we want to keep the window of hope open, let us wait and see what the next few days will bring—days that will be a real test of the extent of the United States' seriousness and the optimism which Christopher has expressed. This test will be different from past tests because, from the Arab and Palestinian points of view, it may be the last opportunity to keep the window of hope open or to close it with all the serious consequences resulting from such a closure—serious consequences for which Washington will definitely shoulder the main responsibility.

Hamas Official Condemns Terrorist Operations

NC2606142393 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 14 Jun 93 p 6

[Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hadi report from Amman]

[Text] Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman of Palestinian Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], has stressed that Islamic movements do not stay Islamic but turn to criminality and become a mafia when they deviate from the legitimate framework.

He condemned the terrorist actions in Egypt and Algeria and stressed that those who are carrying them out are not Muslims. He said that the Palestinian issue is the loser from these problems because Egypt constitutes the backbone of the Palestinian cause. He expressed hope that the Egyptian people will remain strong and continue to contribute to Arab causes. He urged that views must be presented through legal channels, such as the parliament, and that opinions must be expressed in a civilized way.

Ghawshah expressed his fears that intransigent stands might lead to conflicts in the Palestinian arena. He referred to the importance of holding an open dialogue between the national and left-wing trends so as to benefit from the mistakes of the past.

He stressed that Hamas is eager not to go through the past experiences for which the Islamic movements had to pay a price and to have problems solved through dialogue.

Ghawshah regretted the tendency of terrorists to strike at development projects and at impeding the Arab and Islamic countries' progress. He warned that these actions will worsen the Arabs' position in the world and thus enable some circles to impose their control over the region.

He added that Egypt was the first to establish parties and parliaments in the region and that, in view of its status and strategic position, should be qualified to be an example for the Arab and Islamic countries.

Algeria

Iraqi Ambassador: U.S. Attack Sign of 'New Logic'

LD2706141193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Interview with Iraqi Ambassador 'Abd-al-Karim Mahmud al-Mulla by Abdelmoumen Dhakkar in Algiers on 27 June—recorded]

[Text] [Dhakkar] Your Excellency, the American missiles have returned to strike Baghdad once more and cause new civilian victims to fall in a surprise operation. This was unexpected by many if we consider the general course in which it was carried out. How do you explain this new strike and the pretext presented by the U.S. Administration to justify it?

[Al-Mulla] The aggression against Iraq by America and the allies has been going on without any interruption. The escalation of the media campaign or the fabrications that emanated from the last inspection mission concerning the issue of the cameras and the coincidence of the media campaign against Iraq during the last two weeks, in both Europe and the United States, made us feel that there was something premeditated against Iraq. In fact, we were not surprised by this strike. We have been saying for a long time that we were expecting the escalation of the aggression at any moment by the United States or its allies. However, the reality is that the issue they put forward as the justification for this new attack on Iraq—this attack that, as is known, has left a great number of civilian victims and has hit civilian areas—the justification that it was a response to an assassination attempt against Bush that took place in Kuwait is a new logic. If it prevailed in the world, it could entirely destroy international relations and the society of mankind.

First, Iraq categorically denied this accusation at the time. Even the American press spoke about the results of the investigation committee that went to Kuwait and showed that Iraq had no connection with this issue. The mere doubt or allegation by the Americans that Iraq was a party to this operation meant the launching of 23 missiles against a residential area and the killing of innocent people. This logic indicates a boisterous attitude and disregard for world public opinion and proves the falsehood of the claims—the boasting—regarding human rights, democracy, and international legitimacy. As a matter of fact, we regard what has happened today as a true manifestation of the real new world order. If we observe what is taking place in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Somalia and what is taking place now in Iraq, it is possible that the nature of the new world order will become quite clear to us.

[Dhakkar] Your Excellency, official American sources say that the Iraqi intelligence headquarters have been bombarded, and no civilian targets have been targeted.

[Al-Mulla] First, 23 missiles are not necessary to bombard the Iraqi intelligence headquarters. Second, for people who are talking loudly about human rights, when they hit a building that is thousands of miles away from the sea where the missiles have been fired from, they must expect that there would be casualties among the civilians. Third, the Iraqi intelligence organization and the government, as I have already told you, have stressed that they have nothing to do with this issue [the attempt to assassinate Bush]. There have been no international investigations as such into this matter. Should each country or intelligence service be accused of being involved in a similar issue and bombarded on this basis, this would mean that the United States would be bombarded every day with world missiles because they daily attempt to kill heads of states and so on. They should expect missiles to be falling on them round the clock.

[Dhakkar] The United States, Your Excellency, has requested a meeting of the UN Security Council to clarify its attitude to the rest of the members. What do you expect the UN Security Council attitude will be vis-a-vis the American strike, which came unilaterally?

[Al-Mulla] First, this is a new logic in international relations and international legality—that a member state of the United Nations carries out an act of aggression with missiles against another state, then requests the UN Security Council to justify its aggression. If this new logic were to prevail in international relations, as I mentioned earlier, it would be a totally dangerous logic. They commit aggression and then request the UN Security Council to convene to justify their aggression. This exposes the kind of boasting by the United States and her allies on the subject of international legality and the subject of international law.

In normal circumstances, we would expect the UN Security Council to deplore such an action taken outside the framework of the Security Council and to deplore the request to convene to justify the action. This is a violation of the prestige and inviolability of the council and the whole of the international organization. However, we have become accustomed recently to finding the UN Security Council obedient and spineless before American might, before American arrogance, and before the arrogance of the Europeans. We, in fact, wish that the UN Security Council and international legality would have their say on this barbaric unjustified act and on this new act of aggression against a member state of the United Nations and member of the international community; with justification the least one can say about it is that it is absurd.

Pro-Iraq Committee Assails U.S. Attack on Baghdad

LD2706163293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] The National Committee for Supporting the Iraqi People has denounced the latest U.S. attack on Iraq and described it as a clear violation of international legitimacy. In a statement issued today, the committee urged the United Nations to shoulder its responsibility and denounce this flagrant aggressive action against a sovereign state. The statement called on the United Nations to play its full role in preserving peace and guaranteeing the rights of nations.

Abdessalam Speaks on Economic, Political Issues

LD2506212293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Italicized passages in French]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Prime Minister Belaid Abdessalam gave a lengthy speech in which he dealt with political and economic issues. For two hours, the prime minister assessed the government's work since it was appointed a year ago. He focused on the commitments that he had promised to fulfill when he was installed as prime minister. Over to our correspondent Moussadek.

[Moussadek] In his lengthy speech yesterday to the cadres of Algiers Province, the prime minister analyzed the general situation in the country, especially regarding security and the economy. Belaid Abdessalam highlighted the factors in the crisis and the prospects of overcoming them. He talked about the solutions proposed in the government's program and the actual difficulties and those created intentionally that hamper efforts to achieve goals quickly. Belaid Abdessalam also touched upon the solutions that some were attempting to impose from abroad and their negative repercussions on the political and social situation.

The prime minister pointed out the importance of the existence of a patriotic political force that will contribute to filling the vacuum in the political arena. He said that the country was today facing two problems: One is constitutional, and the other is political.

[Begin Abdessalam recording] In the country we have two problems. We have a constitutional problem. Indeed, at the end of this year we must find a solution concerning the constitution and attempts are being made to reach such a solution. We hope that it will be successful to allow the state's policy to continue. At the same time there is also a political problem. The political problem is that there is no patriotic force in the political arena. This patriotic force must speak up and take the fate of the country in its hands and defend the rights of the country. [end recording]

[Announcer] In his extensive coverage of the security situation, Belaid Abdessalam emphasized the seriousness of the situation. He stressed the government's efforts to combat terrorism, calling on the people to shatter the dreams of those who delude themselves into thinking that Algerians are incapable of building a state. The prime minister asked what link there could possibly be between the phenomenon of crime and those who were saying that the Algerians are incapable of building a state.

[Begin Abdessalam recording] What is now being targeted and broken up is the organization of the Algerian nation, the organization of Algeria as a society, as a *nation*, as a nation and as a state. Today we ask whether the people who carry out acts like these do not have some link or another with those who were saying yesterday that you could not be a nation. They are trying to show in reality that the Algerians are incapable of finding harmony with each other and creating a society, that they are incapable of joining together and creating a nation, because in the face of crime and the things we now see we ask ourselves what is the reason? We cannot find a single thing except crime and criminal ideas.

Faced with this situation, as you know, this government that I have the honor of leading has, since it was formed, taken all the measures, made all the decisions, and undertaken all actions to provide and mobilize the necessary means to fight this situation. But I have said on a number of occasions that the situation has reached a *limit* and such dimensions that it was impossible to combat a phenomenon like that that we are going through. This disease from which we are suffering cannot be cured by the security forces alone. All Algerians must take part in this. [end recording]

[Announcer] On the economic level, the prime minister analyzed the relations between Algeria and the IMF, concluding that the conditions proposed by this institution would lead to further social deterioration and profoundly affect the middle and poor sections of society.

[Begin Abdessalam recording] The IMF director, Mr. Camdessus, came here to see me. He came with his proposals. I said to him: Look, it was at the end of December—when I had been prime minister for six months—that I announced the government and the government's program and I have started the implementation of the government's program in front of everybody, and I am continuing the implementation of this program. How can you come here today and ask me to change the policy? This is too much. I am prepared to change the policy, but you have to give me something in return. Have you got something to give me? Do you know what he said to me in the end? He said: *If I understand correctly it is for me to prove it to you.* I said to him: *Yes. I will then be waiting for you.* He said: In that case, we must meet. I said we will meet. Since then, our experts have been meeting. I asked him what are your proposals? He said: *First, we must, as they say, reestablish the macroeconomic balances.* In other words, the balances within your economy must return to an equilibrium in line with the market. So you must let the market achieve the balance between the *factors*, the economic factors, and the economic forces in the market.

This is their conception of the market economy. For example, as regards the currency they tell us: You have, on the one hand, an *exchange rate* in other words the value of your currency against hard currency is very low. So in order to restore the balance, you must devalue the dinar, and the dinar, I mean the official rate of the dinar must not be too different from that in the black market or the free market. In a given period of time, that should not be more than two or three years, there must be one market. In other words, your currency will be freely convertible.

This means that everything that is imported becomes more expensive. If we followed this logic it would mean that all the cadres of the country would start looking for ways to leave their places of work in order to go out and *sell* cigarettes, or see how they can go out in the street to make ends meet and support their *families*. They would start looking for a second wage, a second job, as a taxi driver or driver of this or that. [end recording]

Armed Group Broken Up in Oum El Bouaghi Wilaya

LD2706165593 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Security forces in the Ain (Kercha) department in Oum El Bouaghi Wilaya have broken up an armed group consisting of six people who were brought before the Ain Mlila court and charged with forming an armed group, taking part in it, not informing on armed people, and possession of an inciting pamphlet. The court placed three members under protective custody, and the other three were granted temporary release.

Egypt

Musa Comments on U.S. Air Strike on Baghdad

NC2706070593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0656 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that he hopes that the U.S. policy positions will be as firm toward the crimes the Serbs of Bosnia-Herzegovina are committing in violation of legitimacy and all international charters.

Musa was answering a question by MENA on the U.S. air strike launched on Baghdad early this morning.

Butrus-Ghali Meets With Iraqi Envoy, 'Arafat

NC2706204093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA)—UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali this evening met with Nabil Najm, Iraqi permanent envoy to the Arab League. Najm handed him a message from the Iraqi prime minister on the U.S. strike against Baghdad this morning.

Butrus-Ghali also met with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. They discussed developments in the Palestinian issue and the efforts being made to find a solution in light of the 10th round of peace talks in Washington.

Mubarak Receives Sudan's al-Bashir in Cairo

NC2706150293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1331 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA)—Sudanese leader 'Umar al-Bashir arrived in Cairo this evening to participate in the African summit, due to open tomorrow, Monday [28 June].

President Husni Mubarak led the reception party for al-Bashir. The two leaders shook hands, and a military band played the OAU anthem. After shaking hands with senior members of the reception party, Lieutenant General al-Bashir left for the Meridian Hotel, where the African leaders are staying during the summit conference.

Foreign Ministry Views Sudan's Detention of Nationals

NC2706131793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1249 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA)—The Foreign Ministry's official spokesman has stressed that Egyptian nationals in Sudan should not be arrested just because Sudanese people are detained in Egypt on security charges.

The Sudanese authorities arrested 20 Egyptians in Khartoum recently without explanation in response to the detention of nine Sudanese in Egypt for questioning on charges of communicating with a foreign country and providing it with information on security in Egypt.

Sudan's Foreign Minister on Bilateral Ties

PM2806085793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Jun 93 pp 1, 4

[Report on interview with Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih has expressed the hope that the contacts "being made by 14 African foreign ministers and the secretary general of the Organization of African Unity [OAU]," in addition to the Palestinian and Libyan contacts, would pinpoint the causes of the Egyptian-Sudanese tension and search for solutions and a basis for future relations.

In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Cairo, where he is attending the OAU foreign ministers conference, Dr. Abu-Salih said that he held three meetings with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to discusss the causes of the tension, including the Hala'ib problem.

Asked to justify the closure of the Egyptian consulates in Port Sudan and al-Abyad, Dr. Abu-Salih said: "I am not at liberty to disclose the justifications, defend Sudan, or hurl accusations at the Egyptian side, but attempts are currently under way to rectify the situation and revive relations between the two countries. Sudan does not wish to keep talking about the Hala'ib problem or the escalation and complaints on both sides. We want to take some steps forward as the African summit convenes in Cairo because of its importance for Africa, Europe, and the Arab world, and as we mark the 30th anniversary of the OAU. All that behooves us to turn over a new leaf, particularly because Africa wants to start a new era in which we do not hear of conflict or talk about famine, poverty, drought, and desertification. Sudan wants new Egyptian-Sudanese relations that will be a model for African relations. All that is expected to be tackled at summit level between the presidents of Egypt and Sudan on the margins of the African summit conference. Discussions will cover all pending problems, including Hala'ib."

Asked if that meant that it has now been decided that Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir will attend and participate in the African summit conference, Abu-Salih said: "We and the Egyptian brothers are trying to prepare an agenda for the meeting to ensure that it produces results that will end the current tension in relations."

He said that the current state of Egyptian-Sudanese relations "is unnatural, abnormal, and reflects many mistakes. That situation must be rectified. We are trying to seize this important opportunity—the African summit conference in Cairo—to remedy past provocative steps."

He added: "We do not wish to point out that the area of the Hala'ib-Shalatyn triangle is exactly equal to the area of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The issue is not as simple as it is being made out to be. That is why we need long discussions and dialogue in a normal atmosphere in order to produce a result satisfactory to both sides. Up to 14 African states are expected to join our efforts to calm the situation down."

On the claims that Sudan's policies have infuriated the Arabs and the Africans, the Sudanese foreign minister said: "That is what Minister 'Amr Musa said. I discussed that statement with him, and we came to perfect understanding of the language to be used in the dialogue between him and me. I decline to comment on the result of the discussion of that statement because we have achieved important results. I had met with him several times previously while in Cairo since the beginning of the African ministerial conference."

On his criticism of the UN role in Somalia, Abu-Salih said that "the United Nations should have taken into consideration the work of the Horn of Africa Committee and the resolutions of the reconciliation conference held in Addis Ababa to give a chance for the emergence of a new political administration, a new government, and disarmament of all factions with impartiality, treating all political forces equally to enable them to take their natural places in the government. The United Nations should play its defined role and should not enter other labyrinths and exacerbate the situation further."

On what Sudan expects of the summit, Abu-Salih spoke of "the need for cooperation, for African stability, and for the Africans to establish peace with their own hands and ideas without allowing any foreign intervention to create any pretext to destabilize the continent or interfere in its affairs.

There should also be a new economic mechanism that would open new horizons for cooperation and trade exchanges among Africans to put an end to the traditional phenomena associated with Africa, namely natural catastrophes, famine, and backwardness, so that people would, as in the past, talk about African culture."

Algeria's Kafi Arrives for Mubarak, OAU Meetings

NC2506143693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1306 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jun (MENA)—Ali Kafi, chairman of the Algerian Higher State Council, arrived here this afternoon. The Algerian president was received at Cairo airport by President Husni Mubarak.

Meets With Mubarak

NC2506205593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1643 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 Jun (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Ali Kafi, chairman of the Algerian Higher State Council, held a bilateral round of talks tonight at the presidential office in Heliopolis.

The talks dealt with the development in bilateral relations in various fields and the means of boosting and developing them in the coming stage.

President Mubarak and Kafi also reviewed the issues to be discussed at the OAU summit that starts Monday [28 June]. [passage omitted]

Musa Comments on Meeting

NC2606113293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 26 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that during their lengthy meeting today, President Husni Mubarak and Ali Kafi, chairman of the Algerian Higher State Council, reviewed developments on the Arab and African arenas and the means to promote bilateral cooperation. He said both parties agreed to convene the joint Egyptian-Algerian committee in Algiers in September under their foreign ministers.

Musa said the committee will focus on discussing economic, trade, cultural, and scientific coordination to promote ties in every field along with the major political coordination taking place between the two leaderships.

Redha Malek, Algerian minister of foreign affairs, praised the ties between Egypt and Algeria and the understanding between their governments and presidents. Malek said Arab-African cooperation must be discussed during the African summit in Cairo on Monday [28 June], adding that Algeria has good ties with its African neighbors.

Malek said the growth of regional terrorism is foreign to our societies and must be addressed carefully to regain the state's prestige, because without that, there can be no stability. We are focusing on this issue. [passage omitted]

Kafi Addresses Intellectuals

LD2806004793 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Speech by Algerian Higher State Council Chairman Ali Kafi to a meeting of Egyptian thinkers and intellectuals in Cairo on 27 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] I cannot hide it from you, and I am speaking without any haughtiness. God forbid that anything should happen in Egypt and Algeria. I believe, and we believe, that it would affect all of us in this Arab land.

That is why we have a message, and we must take a stand. The stand is to meditate and, at the same time, to take a stand to work, to work seriously to strengthen our negotiating powers and also to strengthen our credibility and the credibility of our strategy in the world's view.

From here, we see a strange thing, a thing that is alien to those of us who live in our societies. It used the tolerant Islamic creed to destroy these societies, the Arab Islamic societies, in the name of the most sacred creed.

In Algeria, as you know, the Algerian people are Muslim, and Islam—the secret of Algeria's existence and of the lack of its dissolution through 132 years of occupation and colonization and the erasing of the Algerian personality—Islam was our escape. It is our unifying element. We cannot allow the charlatans—and they are as far as the sky is from the ground—to spread sedition and chaos in our societies in the name of Islam. That is why Algeria is standing steadfast against that destructive tide. We must not be shaken or retreat, despite what is or was said here and there, and especially in the Western world.

The Western world, as you know, is the cause for the formation of these corrupt, deviant organizations, which were meant to fight communism in the world. When the socialist camp collapsed, they turned to destroy their own societies. They began withdrawing their support for this phenomenon when they felt danger coming toward them—in order to prevent it from spreading to them—as is the case in America.

As far as Algeria is concerned, Algeria is determined to eradicate terrorism and to eliminate violence and the use of religion to achieve power and domination. We cannot retreat from this issue. Algeria is gradually taking control of the situation now and is working to minimize losses by every means. It is no secret to you that many mistakes were made. There have been good and bad things, and this is natural. These mistakes caused the opening of the path for this group to use the Islamic creed to achieve power. [passage omitted]

There is no return to the single-party system as far as the Higher State Council is concerned. There will be a multiparty system within a democracy, but also with the presence of a strong state capable of entering elections without being shaken. That is what we have told foreigners who have visited us and whom we have visited. We have no need for elections that blow away the state. We said we would enter the elections when the state was firm and capable. We would not sacrifice the state for the sake of elections. We reject that and work for the restoration of the prestige of the state and to entrench its foundations and roots so that the state is not shaken when we enter elections. Therefore, the state must be built up to resist any upheavals, whether internal or external.

Thus, our aim is to build a strong democratic system that secures freedom and justice for the society. Also, we must undertake a radical review of the nature, organization, and practice of power in the country according to our own experience. Likewise, we are very much interested in setting down a vision of the future of our country in all fields. From here we have concentrated on opening dialogue with all partners and political sides, with the exception of those who use violence and terrorism and those who encourage their use. We cannot hold any kind of dialogue with these types of persons. [passage omitted]

Muslim Brotherhood Criticizes Handling of Crises

NC2706104293 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Jun 93 p 7

[Statement issued by the Muslim Brotherhood, signed by Brotherhood General Guide Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasir; place and date not given]

[Text] When the rape of 60,000 Muslim women in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the massacre perpetrated during the ethnic cleansing of Muslims in their own country are officially recorded, the United Nations and the UN Security Council will have not lifted a finger to stem the bloodshed. The Serb butchers, mocking and ridiculing UN Security Council resolutions, have vowed to press ahead with the extermination of Bosnian Muslims.

When the Zionist entity thumbs its nose at the UN Security Council resolution demanding the return of the deportees in Marj al- Zuhur to their homeland and, with unique insolence, reiterates that it can expel the Palestinians to its heart's content, America supports it and pats it on the back. With another turn of the screw, the Zionist entity has sealed off the West Bank and Gaza, virtually imprisoning more than 1.5 million Palestinians and cutting off their means of livelihood. Without missing a beat, the Zionist entity has rejected the so-called peace that Arab countries so abjectly chase.

U.S. troops have turned their lethal weapons on the unarmed people of Somalia, killing scores of them. The same troops landed in Somalia under the pretext of protecting relief convoys and ending the conflict among the rival Somali factions.

There is a clear discrepancy in the way the UN Security Council and the United Nations assess various situations. If it's an issue of Arabs and Muslims, their lives and property are treated as if they are not worth a cent. But if non-Arab and non-Muslim interests are at stake, swift action is taken, and the most lethal weapons are used.

The Muslim Brothers firmly condemn what happened to the Pakistani troops operating under the UN flag in Somalia who got embroiled in a sudden and fabricated [mufaja'ah wa mufta'alah] armed confrontation with the Somali people that left some of them dead. The Brothers do not accept such an incident being used to justify the continuing brutal killing of innocent men, women, and children.

The Muslim Brothers again call the world's attention to this discrimination between the Arabs and Muslims and other nations and the double standards that have emerged. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, the international community looks the other way. In Iraq and Somalia, weapons have been put to lethal use.

The Muslim Brothers call on the UN Security Council and the United States to stop the destruction and killing of the Somali people. The Brothers call for all the necessary measures to be taken to achieve national reconciliation in Somalia and to preserve its people's unity and safety in preparation for the withdrawal of international troops.

Writer Criticizes West for 'Desecration' of Somalia

NC2606103993 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 13 Jun 93 p 1

[Chief Editor Jamal Badawi article: "Somalia's Butcher Disciplined; Bosnia's Cutthroat Pampered"]

[Text] We are not going to ask America why it rose briskly during the Gulf war and why it kept still before the war of annihilation against Palestinians in the occupied territories. We will not ask it why it was anxiously moved by what was taking place in Somalia and why it has stayed calm as to what is happening to the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina!

We will not ask because we act upon the Koranic verse that says "ask not questions about things that, if made plain to you, may cause you trouble." We will not ask because veteran politicians tell us not to use analogies in such intricate matters and to judge every case individually, without linking this to that. To these politicians, every case has its unique circumstances, calculations, and potential repercussions that are studied by the giant White House, Pentagon, and Congressional brains, compared to which our Third World brains would look tiny.

So be it then. We will not ask anything of the sort. However, we would only like to ask about the significance of the fatal blow that the U.S. planes dealt to the Somali capital yesterday as the rapid deployment troops were conducting house-to-house searches in pursuit of gang leader Aidid, whose troops are said to have killed 22 UN troops and deserved to be punished. Until these lines were written, we did not know whether the U.S. troops had succeeded in apprehending him or whether the search would continue until the last Somali soldier falls in these heated strikes. Meanwhile, Bosnia's cutthroat enjoys being pampered!

What made the United States do what a butcher does in a slaughterhouse in this African country? Does that country not have its owners, neighbors, and friends, and does it not belong to a continent?

Have you forgotten that Somalia is a member of the Arab League, the OAU, and the Islamic Conference Organization? What did all these organizations do to rescue that country—a country ravaged by famine and conspired against by its own leaders? Leaders who turned it into an arena for a civil war among a bunch of tribal gang leaders who put on the mantle of legitimacy and crowned themselves leaders when they are nothing more than thieves.

What did all these organizations do to avert the type of deterioration that gave America the excuse to intervene to discipline and punish?

Do not try to find the excuse in the rigid texts that prohibit intervention in the domestic affairs of a country. Sacred to us, these texts have been humiliated by those who devised them in the first place. They did not prevent the mothers of democracy in the world from moving fleets, massing armies, sending inspectors and observers to Arab and African countries, and committing acts that, in effect, constitute crimes of rape and desecration under the nose of international law and the mantle of the United Nations and the Security Council.

All that happened without moving a hair in the head of international legitimacy or stirring the conscience of the international organization that laments man's rights, people's freedoms, and national independence principles.

Under the new world order, the world is heading to the edge of the bottomless pit; it is turning into a jungle, controlled by the powerful tyrants. Woe to the weak, who think that they will be spared from the massacre. One day they will cry out: We were done with the day we sacrificed our sanctities [Ukiltu Yawma Ukila al-Thawru al-Abyad].

Editorial Labels U.S. Policy on Somalia 'Failure'

NC2606115893 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 16 Jun 93 p 9

[Editorial: "Somalia and the Failure of International Policies"]

[Text] The United States undertook "Operation Restore Hope" in Somalia last December—with the blessing of the United Nations—with the aim of ending the tragic famine that had claimed the lives of about 350,000 people. Washington glorified the success of this operation at the time and hastened to hand over Somalia, with all its complicated and intricate problems, to the UN peacekeeping forces. The U.S. Administration ignored all the ugliest human rights violations perpetrated by the warmongers in Somalia.

For fear of getting involved in a situation from which it will be difficult to extricate itself, Washington did not dare to come near the most important and dangerous measure in the operation to save Somalia, namely disarming the warring militias. It opted for negotiations and dialogue with the same people who have created the Somali tragedy in the first place.

The situation that Somalia has reached today is proof of the failure of U.S. policy on this problem. It is at the same time a grave undermining of UN credibility and its eligibility to tackle such situations.

?More importantly, events in Somalia—like those in Bosnia and Cambodia—are evidence of the double standards of political stands. Washington and the United Nations were quite ready to enter into a dialogue with the Somali warmongers regardless of the crimes they have committed against the Somali people. But the recent military strike began as soon as danger came near the peacekeeping forces, despite the arguments about the usefulness of such "strikes" that raged after the attack on Iraq and the attempt to avoid striking at the Serbs in Bosnia!

Damage Resulting From U.S. 'Uranium-Tipped Shells' Noted

NC2606100893 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 16 Jun 93 p 8

[From the Close-up column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "The Iraqis' Human Rights"]

[Text] U.S. forces used new types of shells and weapons during the one-sided Gulf war battles that raged in the Kuwaiti desert and southern Iraq in "Desert Storm." Now that enough time has passed, it has become evident that these weapons have caused immense damage to the environment and to thousands of Iraqi civilians. They might have sown the seeds of death and ruin in Iraq for many years to come. Even the State of Kuwait might not escape their effects!!

A number of reports that appeared in the American papers after the Gulf war confirmed that the U.S. forces used uranium-tipped artillery shells that leave radiation and toxic material. They are probably the cause of the mysterious disease symptons that appeared among Iraqi children that are similar to the symptoms of cancer compounded by severe stomach troubles. This caused the death of around 50,000 children during the first eight months after the Gulf war.

No one in the Arab world, the United Nations, and its environmental agencies has paid attention to this problem. The campaign of hostility and deep hatred for the Iraqi ruling regime has been and remains as strong as ever. All the attention has been and remains focused on ways to bring down and undermine Saddam's regime. Many have thought that a deterioration in the living and health conditions in Iraq would destabilize the regime and incite the Iraqi people against Saddam and his aides, as if it is necessary for the Iraqi people to pay a double price in return for nothing: starving it, isolating it internationally, and killing its sons and children while simultaneously continuing to suffer from Saddam and his gang.

Because no one can or wants to question the United States, the Pentagon has denied that radioactive ammunition and weapons were used in Iraq. But it was recently revealed that several thousand U.S. soldiers are suffering from mysterious disease symptons that range from exhaustion to loss of hair and appetite, insomnia, loss of memory, pains in the joints, and stomach and heart troubles. It has became evident that the uranium-tipped artillery shells used have left toxic waste and dust that seep into the body's bones and cells. These shells are effective in hitting targets, especially tanks, and large quantities of these shells are still in the Kuwaiti desert!!

While the United States has the means and the resources to treat its sick soldiers, who will then be responsible for treating thousands of the sons of the Iraqi people? Is there no choice but to let the Iraqi people be punished instead of its rulers and to make it pay the price of the weapons testing that the United States carried out during the Gulf war? We address this question to the U.S., European, and Arab human rights organizations!!

Economic Team Leaves for IMF Talks in Washington

NC2506143893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1314 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jun (MENA)—An Egyptian economic delegation led by Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning, and including Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz left Cairo this afternoon for Washington on a visit that will last for several days. During the visit, the Egyptian officials will resume their discussion with officials in the IMF and the World Bank on some points related to the second agreement expected to be signed with the IM, which will lead to the writing off of $3 billion of Egypt's external debts.

The Egyptian delegation will submit a memorandum including some amendments in some customs procedures, as well as a reduction in the customs tariff for vehicles and other commodities for which the duty exceeds 100 percent.

Editorial Rejects IMF's 'Infernal' Conditions

NC2706070193 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 21 Jun 93 p 1

[Editorial: "IMF Conditions and Expected Ruin"]

[Text] The IMF appears to want to cause a severe shock to Egypt's society with the harsh conditions it presents within the context of the economic reform program.

Prices rose sharply, and the people started to suffer after the IMF imposed the policy of liberalizing prices. The IMF is now trying to impose two infernal conditions. It demands pricing irrigation water and taxing people's bank deposits.

President Husni Mubarak has announced that the Nile water is heaven's gift to the people, so the Egyptian farmer cannot pay for it. Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has denied the government plans to impose a tax on deposits, but the IMF still insists on these two severe demands. The first means a rise in agricultural costs and an increase in the price of agricultural products. The second means the flight of deposits from banks. Savers will have one of three options. The first is to hide their savings under their mattress, out of reach of the government, the IMF, and [Finance Minister] al-Razzaz. The second is to resort to other channels that are also beyond the reach of the government, that is, to return to capital investment companies. The third option is to spend these savings and cause inflation to rise and prices to soar higher.

Perhaps neither the government nor the IMF realizes the people's withdrawal of their deposits from the banks means the government will not find the inexhaustible source to which it resorts to obtain loans to implement projects, spend on services, and so forth. The government will be forced to borrow from abroad, despite the dangers this entails.

Despite the denials of the president and prime minister, we still fear the IMF pressuring and developing or twisting its conditions. The government would then have no choice but to submit. That would be a calamity.

Yes, we support economic reform, but we reject humiliating conditions that are counterproductive and that only entail great danger for the Egyptian people.

Saudi Businessman, Others Said To Fund Extremists

NC2606094093 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 14 Jun 93 p 1

[Report by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Bari]

[Excerpt] Egyptian security authorities have received information that some figures who support extremism, including Saudi businessman Usamah Bin-Ladin, send work contracts for extremists to work in companies that are restricted only to them in several Arab countries and that are owned by businessmen from these countries. The state security prosecution investigations had proved that Bin-Ladin was implicated in financing "the Reorganization of the al-Jihad Organization."

These businessmen support extremism and allocate 30 percent of their and the company employees' salaries for preaching purposes—as they view it—in the rest of the Islamic countries and for sending aid to Muslims in the Philippines, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Somalia.

Major General Dakruri, director of the general directorate for work permits, said the department's new operating system prevents any loopholes through which these terrorists may leave the country. [passage omitted]

Groups Denounce Shubra Street Explosion

Islamic Group Issues Statement

NC2506144693 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Jun 93 p 3

[Text] The Islamic Group [al-jama'ah al-islamiyah] has issued a statement denouncing the "Shubra explosion." It stressed that this crime is a vile act that targeted worshipers and ordinary people. This act cannot be committed by Muslims. It denounced the attempts to involve Islamists in this crime in order to distort their image. It urged the government to be courageous and identify the real criminals and put them on trial. It asked the government to sever the Zionist and Israeli fingers that want to harm Egypt, its people, and religion. In its statement, the Islamic Group also mourned the seven martyrs who were killed in the incident.

Muslim Brotherhood Urges Unity

NC2506145093 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Jun 93 p 3

[Text] The Muslim Brotherhood issued the following statement: Praise be to God. Prayers and peace be upon the messenger of God, his scion, and his companions. The Muslim Brotherhood—which has stressed and continues to stress the security and safety of the homeland and every citizen, which has denounced and continues to denounce all forms and sources of violence, which has pledged and continues to pledge to God to diligently work in@the interest of this homeland, its security and stability, and the unity of its ranks—denounces the ugly crime that occurred in Shubra Street, where a time bomb exploded among the peaceful citizens, killing innocent people.

The Muslim Brotherhood, shaken by this terrifying incident, urges the government to quickly apprehended its perpetrators and to identify the party, which has carried out similar bombings among the peaceful masses. They appeal to the noble Egyptian people to stand in one row against all forms and sources of violence and to continue to work to establish security, safety, freedom, and stability throughout this good homeland.

We implore God to preserve Egypt and its people and to make it and all the Arab and Muslim countries safe, secure, and strong.

Muslim Brotherhood Members Arrested in Salsabill Case

NC2506144993 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Jun 93 pp 1,9

[Excerpt] The State Security Investigation Department has arrested a number of Muslim Brotherhood members in the past two days on the pretext of belonging to the alleged Salsabil Group [computer company reportedly owned by the Muslims Brotherhood] and of exploiting the issue of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Muslims to stage antigovernment demonstrations.

The arrests on Friday [25 June] morning included the following persons from Cairo: Dr. Jamal 'Abd-al-Hadi, a professor of Islamic history; Dr. Fu'ad Hammudah; Dr. Muhyi al-Dhayit; Muhammad Tabl; Muhammad al-Ansari, head of the Doctor's Association; 'Adil Salim al-'Azab; and Sharif Mustafa

The following were arrested in al-Jizah: Dr. Sana' Abu-Zayd, 'Ali Jabir, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam Bishr from al-Azhar University, 'Abd- al-Salam Bashandi, and Dr. Abu-al-'Ula Qarni.

In Alexandria, the security forces arrested Islamic propagator Wajdi Ghunaym; Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im, doyen of teachers in central Alexandria; and Ahmad al-Didhwi.

The defendants were referred to the State Security prosecutor on Saturday. They were confronted with the State Security Investigation Department's memorandum revolving on their exploitation of the Bosnian issue to incite against the government and to accuse it of departing from the Islamic system. The memorandum also accused them of belonging to the alleged Salsabil Group.

In the village of Nahiyah, the State Security Investigation Department arrested four students from al-Azhar University on charges of hanging posters on which the phrase "Sarajevo will not die" was printed. The four students, who were also accused of supporting the Muslim Brotherhood, are Mukarram Muhammad al-Tawil, Hamdi 'Abd-al-Majid Abu-Sinnah, 'Ashur 'Abd-al-Fattah al-Khayr, and Mahmud Imam 'Awad. [passage omitted]

Papers Report Bedouins Arrested for Supplying Arms

NC2606095793 Paris AFP in English 0915 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, June 26 (AFP)—Authorities in the Sinai desert seized grenades, explosives and firearms and arrested bedouin tribesmen who allegedly planned to sell the material to Islamic militants, Egyptian newspapers reported Saturday [25 June].

Friday's raids in the southern Sinai netted 105 grenades, 214 sticks of dynamite, 13 revolvers, 16 automatic rifles, and 75 kilograms (165 pounds) of TNT, the reports said.

A group of bedouin implicated in the case were summoned before a military prosecutor.

Security forces on Wednesday seized weapons and ammunition in the northern Sinai, and authorities on Thursday dismantled two weapons- making plants in Cairo.

Police charged the owners of the workshops of supplying weapons to Islamic militants.

The interior ministry has stepped up efforts to uncover weapons plants and storage sites following a wave of bombings in Cairo that has killed about 20 people this year, a police spokesman said Saturday.

Military Trial of 32 'Terrorists' Opens in Cairo

NC2606141593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1316 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 26 Jun (MENA)—The High Military Court today began trying terrorists charged with armed robbery against jewelry shops, the assassination of a number of citizens and police officers and personnel, and possession of weapons, explosives, and ammunition for use in schemes against public security.

Amid tight security measures, the court held its session at the new courts hall in Cairo's al-Jabal al-Ahmar military region. Twenty-nine of the defendants are present in the court, while three others are being tried in absentia.

Twenty-seven of the defendants were brought in a military vehicle from Liman Turah prison, while the other two were brought from al-Fayyum prison.

The court held its session at 1100 under the presidency of Major General 'Ali Kamal Hamzah and the membership of Lieutenant Colonels Ashraf 'Amarah and Mahmud Sultan. The prosecution was represented by Lieutenant Colonel Ahmad Nasif.

As soon as the judges entered the courtroom, the defendants began to chant that there is no ruling other than that of God.

The court's secretary called out the defendants and the court president asked each one of them if he had appointed a defense lawyer. He then decided to assign a number of lawyers for the defendants who had not.

One of the lawyers tried to cast doubt on military judiciary saying that the defense has not yet acknowledged the right of military courts to try civilian defendants. We will use all available means to contest the trial of civilians by military courts or the Military Judicial Council, he said. [passage omitted]

'Extremists' Arrested; Weapons Seized in al-Fayyum

NC2606172293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1548 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Text] Al-Fayyum, 26 Jun (MENA)—Security agencies in al-Fayyum arrested nine extremists affiliated with al-Jihad and al-Shawqiyun organizations today. They were caught in possession of some weapons they planned to use in terrorist attacks.

In an intensive security campaign in al-Fayyum, supervised by Major General Muhammad Tahir Ghunaym, assistant interior minister and al-Fayyum security director, 69 unlicensed weapons, including 14 machine guns and 7 revolvers, were seized. Fifteen military draft evaders, eight people wanted in connection with drug cases, and 5,696 people wanted for various judicial offenses were also arrested.

A responsible security source stressed that the security campaign was carried out at Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi's instructions to hit the hotbeds of terrorism and extremism in a number of governorates and seize unlicensed weapons.

Unknown Assailants Shoot, Kill Dayrut Policeman

NC2706095393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0916 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Asyut, 27 Jun (MENA)—Unknown assailants shot dead Warrant Officer Fikri Fadil Muhammad from the Dayrut Police Force in front of his house before escaping. Security bodies are combing the area in search of the culprits.

Official Asserts Situation Calm

NC2706124493 Cairo MENA in English 1221 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, June 27 (MENA)—The security situation in Asyut is completely calm in spite of some individual incidents recently launched by terrorist groups against policemen, Assistant Interior Minister Major General Usamah Dabbus said today.

The security authorities are currently listening to the eyewitnesses of the incident of killing in Dayrut, Asyut, today, Major General Dabbus exclusively told MENA. The eyewitnesses said that they saw the killer who opened fire at Fikri Muhammad Fadil from a near distance, he added. The security forces continue their intensive campaigns against the terrorists and widely combed the neighbouring areas searching for the culprits, he said.

Source Says Suspect Identified

NC2706173593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1557 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA)—A responsible security source at the Ministry of Interior has announced that the security authorities have identified the terrorist who killed Warrant Officer Fikri Fadil Madi of the detectives unit of Dayrut Police Station, Asyut Governorate.

In a Foreign Ministry statement, the source added that the incident happened at 0930 today and that detectives and criminal laboratory experts came to the scene. Police authorities are continuing efforts to arrest the culprit, he said.

Libya

Statement Condemns Use of Force Against Iraq

LD2706131793 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Statement by an "official source" at the General People's Committee for Unity]

[Text] The American forces have launched a missile attack on Iraq, targeted on a position in Baghdad, in response to what they called an attempt to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush during his visit to Kuwait in April this year. The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah denounces the method of using and threatening to use force in solving disputes, and condemns the continuation of the implementation of the plan to destroy Iraq despite Iraq's compliance with all that was asked of it. The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah alerts the international community to the fact that this plan is aimed at the achievement of purposes which go beyond the resolutions of the United Nations—the domination of the Arab region.

The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, from the premise of the constants of its pan-Arab policy and its commitment to its Arab responsibilities, and in light of the fact that the Libyan Arab people are part of the Arab nation, reiterates that what the Iraqi Arab people are being subjected to touches all the sons of the Arab nation. It calls for a serious Arab stand to end the designs of aggression, the price of which the sons of Iraq are paying with their blood and in destruction, and stresses that the preservation of the Arab nation's existence and sovereignty is an historic responsibility, the consequences of which we all shoulder before the Arab masses.

Source Responds to U.S. Statement on Fuel Shipment

LD2606221393 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1825 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Jun (JANA)—International media carried a comment by U.S. State Department spokesman Michael McCurry on what is called stopping a shipment of fuel from Russia while it was on its way to the Great Jamahiriyah by way of Ukraine. A responsible source at the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation has commented on this:

The Great Jamahiriyah has no connection with this matter. The statement by the official spokesman of the U.S. State Department is part of the media campaign to discredit the image of the Great Jamahiriyah. It is also a part of the plot of psychological terrorism against the Libyan Arab people and is also intended to deprive the Great Jamahiriyah of the means to implement the comprehensive development projects which are being realized by the Libyan Arab people on their own soil aimed at overcoming underdevelopment.

The source expressed regret that the United States has not given up the policy of terrorizing people. He said that what is being levelled against Libya is official psychological terrorism. He noted that the new U.S. Administration under Bill Clinton has gotten itself involved in the policies and stands of the two former U.S. Administrations of Reagan and Bush.

The source said: We in the Great Jamahiriyah hope that the friend President Bill Clinton will liberate the U.S. Administration from these policies which have inflicted harm on the interests of the Libyan and American peoples.

The responsible source at the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation concluded by saying that it is the right of sovereign states to possess the means to defend themselves in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter and despite this the Great Jamahiriyah continues to call for an international agreement banning the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the world for the sake of safeguarding human existence.

'Hostile Campaigns' by Western Media

LD2606222493 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1850 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Jun (JANA)—International media organs have carried reports that a ship was stopped in Singapore harbor while enroute to the Great Jamahiriyah and carrying on board industrial equipment.

A source at the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation has refuted these allegations, and said that they are part of the hostile campaigns that are waged by the Western media against the Jamahiriyah with the aim of discrediting its image before world public opinion, and placing obstacles in the way of its development programs that seek to do away with underdevelopment and make progress on the Libyan Arab soil.

The source affirmed that the efforts of the Libyan Arab people have been directed basically toward economic and social development programs for promoting the welfare of its sons. The Great Jamahiriyah has always called for an international agreement that prevents the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the world and channels human resources toward liberating the peoples from underdevelopment.

Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Message to Yeltsin

NC2706152493 Paris AFP in English 1501 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Tripoli, June 27 (AFP)—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on Sunday [27 June] sent an urgent message to Russian President Boris Yeltsin after officials here denied that a shipment of fuel for missiles destined for Libya was intercepted in the Ukraine.

The Libyan leader handed the message to the Russian ambassador in Libya, state radio said but provided no details on its contents.

On Saturday a foreign ministry spokesman denied recent press reports that a boat loaded with 80 tonnes of Russian fuel for missiles destined for Libya had been intercepted in the Ukraine.

Libya has been slapped with an international air and military embargo since April 1992 over its failure to hand over two suspects indicted for the 1988 bombing of a U.S. plane over Lockerbie, Scotland.

Mauritania

President Hold Talks With Malian Counterpart

LD2406220793 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Excerpt] The president of Mali continues the friendly and working visit he is paying to our country.

President Alpha Oumar Konare this evening held tete-a-tete talks with His Excellency Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, president of the republic. He will also attend a dinner tonight hosted in his honor by the president.

The president of Mali arrived this morning in the capital where he was welcomed at the steps of the plane by Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, president of the republic, accompanied by the prime minister. [passage omitted]

Opposition Leader Views Reasons for Arrest, Release

LD2506221493 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] Hamdi Ould Mouknes, former Mauritanian foreign minister and leader of the Union for Progress and Democracy, was released this afternoon in Nouakchott. He was arrested yesterday and asked to explain the meeting he recently organized in Morocco between King Hassan II and the former Mauritanian president, Mokhtar Ould Daddah. Members of his party were also invited to take part as observers in the Moroccan general elections.

However, immediately after his release Hamdi Ould Mouknes said that it was rather the influence of the party which he created that annoyed the Mauritanian authorities:

[Begin recording] [Mouknes] I think they are interested in our party which could enjoy some influence in Mauritania's political spectrum. Our party, which has just been created, has been received very positively in the country. This means this party must be taken into account in order to find solutions to our problems in a responsible way.

[Correspondent Ghislaine Dupont] So, you mean to say that this matter of accusing you of having strong links with Morocco is only a pretext?

[Mouknes] I think one should bear this explanation in mind when looking for the reason for this arrest. However, I cannot be accused of having relationships with Arab and African heads of state. I was foreign minister for more than 10 years. I was able to foster these relationships in the interests of Mauritania. These relationships have become personal which of course has some influence on the internal situation in Mauritania and on the impact that our party could have on Mauritanian public opinion. [end recording]

Morocco

Elections for Deputies Held in 222 Constituencies

LD2506214993 Rabat RTM Television Network in French 1800 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Morocco moved to the rhythm of democracy today: almost 12 million of our fellow citizens were called on to choose 222 deputies in as many constituencies throughout the kingdom. The national turnout at these elections up to 1600 reached more than 44 percent, with peak rates ranging between 41 and 65 percent in several prefectures and provinces of the kingdom. [passage omitted]

We have learned that in accordance with Article 31 of the royal decree on the organic law on the composition of the Chamber of Representatives and the election of its members, some walis and governors of his majesty the king ordered delayed of polling stations until 2000 GMT this evening. Thus, citizens who have not yet voted can carry out their national duty.

Opposition Alleges Violations

LD2506225793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] In Morocco the legislative elections was the main event today. Out of 333 seats in the parliament 222 seats have to be elected in the present election. 'Aicha Dagha reports:

[Dagha] Before the voting was concluded criticism was directed from the opposition toward the Moroccan Administration. The main opposition parties noted that the voting process was marred by a number of violations.

Mohamed Guessous, member of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces Politburo, told an AFP correspondent that there were a number of violations of the electoral law in at least 20 out of 60 constituencies in Morocco.

The Socialist Union Party representative adds that some representatives of the candidates were removed from the ballot offices and some electorates received threats from the security men, while large sums of money were distributed and blank minutes were signed.

These accusations were refuted by the central administration in Morocco. A government source stated that the elections were carried in a calm and tranquil atmosphere and with total transparency, and furthermore, all parties were represented at the polling stations.

Final Results Announced

LD2606135293 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Text] The results of the elections that our country witnessed yesterday are the central topic of the news conference that Interior and Information Minister Driss Basri is holding at the moment with members of the national and international press.

Yesterday's ballot to choose 222 representatives yielded a new political map, according to the final results. The final results throughout the Kingdom are as follows:

Constituencies	222
Final results	222
Registered voters	11,398,987
Votes cast	7,153,211
Turnout percentage	62.75
Invalid ballots	930,993
Votes cast	6,222,218

Allocation of seats according to political trends:

Socialist Union of Popular Forces	48 seats
Istiqlal Party	43 seats
Popular Movement	33 seats
National Rally for Independence	28 seats
Constitutional Union	27 seats
National Democratic Party	14 seats
National Popular Movement	14 seats
Party of Progress and Socialism	6 seats
Party of Choura and Independence	3 seats
Nonparty candidates:	2 seats
Action Party:	2 seats
Organization of Democratic and Popular Action	2 seats

Interior Minister Praises Process

LD2606212893 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Text] Rabat, 26 Jun (MAP)—Interior and Information Minister Driss Basri stressed the importance of the legislative elections held in Morocco yesterday [words indistinct].

Driss Basri said in a statement to Radio France International that the elections fully engaged the attention of Moroccan voters and political forces because they were the first to be held under the revised constitution of 1992, and because they opened up wider and beneficial horizons of responsibility to all the dynamic forces of the nation.

He added that under the provisions of this constitution, the government is responsible to parliament. Parliament also will have extensive rights to control government activity. Once the government has been formed, it will not be able to begin work without approval of its program by the parliament. He said that the new constitution very clearly defines the question of parliament's vote of confidence in the government.

With regard to the openness of these elections, the interior minister stressed that everyone in the government, the national committee charged with overseeing the election process, the political parties, the parliament, and above all King Hassan II, are all concerned about the impartiality of these elections. He said that the Moroccan king was personally involved in ensuring all this and in firmly establishing the principles of impartiality and everything conducive to the progress of democracy. He indicated that all the necessary measures to ensure the smooth progress of the elections were taken.

The interior and information minister pointed out the existence of 120 regional committees in charge of following up the electoral process. These committees are headed by judges, with an average of one committee for every two electoral constituencies. Every committee includes a representative of each political party and all the candidates. He emphasized that whenever one of the sides objects to any act arising either from the candidates themselves or from the administration, the committee will immediately convene and carry out its investigations on the spot. [Words indistinct] 300 objections concerning to a large extent the candidates among themselves, but at no time was any intervention by the administration recorded.

When asked whether holding these elections in the Saharan provinces contradicted the UN plan to organize a referendum in the Western Sahara, Driss Basri replied that there was no contradiction at all because the two ballots were completely different. The ballot held yesterday would appoint representatives and deputies for the people of the Western Sahara in the Moroccan parliament, just like all the other regions of Morocco. This is not the first time that elections of this kind have been organized in the Western Sahara nor will it be the last. As for the forthcoming referendum, Mr. Basri said that by its nature it will be a referendum on self-determination, which would settle the issue of sovereignty. In other words, it will determine who has sovereignty over these provinces: Morocco or the Polisario Front? This referendum will take place under UN auspices and supervision. Also, the voters in this referendum will not necessarily be all the voters in the 25 June elections. Those involved in the latest elections were all inhabitants of Morocco, whether Western Saharans or not. However, in the self-determination referendum, the Western Saharans alone will vote, or will have the right to vote. The two ballots are thus so different that the United Nations has shown no concern over this issue.

Ambassador Delivers King Hassan Message for Yeltsin

LD2506220393 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] King Hassan II sent a message to President Boris Yeltsin. Ahmed Cherkaoui, secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, paid a quick visit to Moscow today where he was received by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. During the meeting, which was attended by his majesty's ambassador to Russia, Abdessalem Znined, and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Kolokov, Ahmed Cherkaoui handed Kozyrev a message from His Majesty King Hassan II to President Boris Yeltsin.

Sudan

Foreign Minister Calls U.S. Attack on Iraq 'Mistake'

NC2706094093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0927 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA)—Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih has condemned the U.S. attack on the communications center [markaz al-ittisalat] in Baghdad.

In a statement today, he said terrorism, whether by individuals or states, should not prevail in the civilized world. He added: We believe the great powers should not commit such acts; otherwise the world will be in danger.

Abu-Salih said: Life is precious everywhere. When innocent lives are endangered, we must view this with apprehension. Whatever the reasons, the strike against Iraq is a mistake.

Assembly Speaker Condemns Raid

EA2706205593 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] The speaker of the Transitional National Assembly [TNA], Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, has described the U.S. aggression against Iraq which occurred this morning as a barbarous act aimed at raising the morale of the U.S. forces after their repeated failures in Somalia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mr. Khalifah said that the world expected a superpower like the U.S. to be a paragon in respecting international legitimacy and the supremacy of the law. It is expected to be a leader of the march of justice in dealing with problems. Mr. Khalifah added that the U.S. had chosen the logic of force and ignored legal options, relying on its power and military superiority.

Government Denies Connection With New York Plot Suspects

EA2606130493 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Text] Sudan's diplomatic mission at the United Nations has denied any connection between Sudan and the eight individuals who have been accused of plotting to attack the UN Headquarters and other targets in New York. The United States declared that it has no evidence on the participation of Sudan's Government in the terrorist operations.

This statement comes a day after the arrest of the accused, five of whom, the FBI claims, were originally Sudanese.

Aide to al-Turabi Denies Tie to Terrorism in U.S.

TA2806104293 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 28 Jun 93 p 19

[Telephone interview with 'Abd-al-Wahab al-Afandi, "adviser" to Hasan al-Turabi, the leader of Sudan's Islamic Front, by Yehoshu'a Me'iri; date not given]

[Text] In March 1993, Israel delivered intelligence information to the United States according to which Sudan has set up a terrorist infrastructure in New York and is backing the operation of terror squads in the United States.

The information was based on reports by Israel's intelligence services, according to which the decision to activate terrorists in New York was made in a meeting of the leaders of the Sudanese terror front in Khartoum on 19 February 1993, after it became apparent that the members of the terror network had completed their preparations. In a telephone interview with HADASHOT, al-Afandi firmly denied the claim that Sudan is behind the operations of the terror squads in the United States:

[Me'iri] Claims have been made that terror headquarters on Sudan's territory enjoy the auspices of the state.

[Al-Afandi] This is a gross lie. Khartoum hosts representations of all the organizations fighting for their rights. Such representations exist in many other countries as well.

[Me'iri] Nevertheless, it has been claimed that Sudan supports terror organizations.

[Al-Afandi] The Sudanese Government lacks the funds to support international activities. This accusation is meant to serve the interests of neighboring countries.

[Me'iri] What about Sudanese-Iranian cooperation?

[Al-Afandi] This has been blown out of proportion as well. There is civilian cooperation between us because both countries are Muslim and ruled by Muslim laws, but there is nothing beyond that.

[Me'iri] Egypt claims that you train members of Islamic terror organizations which operate on its soil.

[Al-Afandi] This is an Egyptian domestic problem. We have nothing to do with it. Anyone who chooses to tie us to it must have his own motives. Cairo has been leveling charges against Sudan in an attempt to extricate itself from the destabilized state of its domestic security.

[Me'iri] What is your stand regarding the Middle East political process?

[Al-Afandi] Sudan favors any attempt to solve conflicts by peaceful means. The fact is that the head of the Islamic Front, Hasan al-Turabi, has suggested to Hamas

[Islamic Resistance Movement] to take part in the process and even attempted to reconciliate between Hamas and the PLO.

[Me'iri] So you are peace seekers, in fact?

[Al-Afandi] Yes, definitely, provided that it does not harm the interests of Islam.

Iran Not To Finance Khartoum-Malakal Road Project

PM2406103693 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 21-27 Jun 93 p1

[Unattributed report: "From Our Own Sources"]

[Text] Sudanese Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Dr. Ghazi Salah-al-Din has confirmed to AL-WASAT that Iran has decided not to finance the peace road between Khartoum and Malakal in the south and that his country will finance the project from its own resources.

Tunisia

Prime Minister Leaves for OAU Summit in Cairo

LD2706122793 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Prime Minister Hamed Karoui left this morning for Cairo after being assigned by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to represent him at the OAU summit tomorrow in the Egyptian capital.

Foreign Minister's Trip to Kuwait Deemed 'Success'

PM2506112693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Jun 93 p 4

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "Tunisian Information Minister Stresses Ben Yahya's Visit to Kuwait Was a Success"]

[Text] Tunis—After the varying reactions provoked by the Tunisian foreign minister's visit to Kuwait at the invitation of Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Jabir al-Sabah, Tunisian Information Minister Fathi Houidi has said in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the visit was a success, as testified by all the Kuwaiti officials with whom Habib Ben Yahya met. He added that the visit contributed to giving a new impetus to the brotherly relations between the two fraternal states. It was also a good opportunity for consultations on all Arab and regional issues of common interest. It also enabled the Tunisian and Kuwaiti sides to analyze prevailing conditions in the Arab world and determine the various obstacles which should be surmounted so that the rift can be mended and the Arab solidarity march resumed.

The minister pointed out that Ben Yahya's visit was an embodiment of a joint political will, proceeding from a joint analysis by Tunisia and Kuwait that the time has come to impart a new impetus to bilateral relations and reveal respect for the principles on which the two countries' foreign policies are based, taking account of their common interests.

Houidi stressed that the special relations which Tunisia has in the new era been eager to establish with all fraternal and friendly states are built on foundations not influenced by exaggerated rhetoric and media campaigns from some suspect circles rejecting any Arab rapprochement.

Responding to what some newspapers said, namely that the Tunisian foreign minister was prevented from addressing the Kuwaiti National Assembly and holding a news conference, Houidi strongly denied that. He said that the program for Ben Yahya's visit to Kuwait did not include a news conference or a meeting with National Assembly members. The information minister described these reports are baseless. He pointed out that the Tunisian foreign minister was accorded a warm reception by Kuwaiti officials, first and foremost Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the country's amir, and Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, heir apparent and prime minister.

Kuwait

Attack on Iraq 'Natural Result' of Iraq's Terrorism

LD2706154093 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1433 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Kuwait, 27 Jun (KUNA)—Kuwait said today that the missile attack by the United States on the Iraqi intelligence headquarters in Baghdad last night was the "natural result of the Iraqi regime's insistence on carrying out and sponsoring terrorist and sabotage acts."

Abd-al-Aziz Abdullah Al-Dakhil, minister of state for cabinet affairs, said after the weekly meeting of the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers today which was chaired by Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, that Kuwait has suffered much from Iraq's terrorist and sabotage acts.

Al-Dakhil stressed that the regime's insistence on sponsoring terrorism "is a challenge to international charters and conventions and a continuing threat to security and stability in the region."

He added that the Council urged "the international community to continue the pressure on this regime to force it to abide by international resolutions, which would contribute to the consolidation of peace and stability in the region."

MP's Welcome Attack, Urge Elimination of Regime

NC2706123993 Paris AFP in English 1203 GMT 27 June 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait City, June 27 (AFP)—Kuwaitis on Sunday [27 June] welcomed the U.S. missile attack on Baghdad but said they would have preferred a knock-out blow against Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

"It was a justified action," said 'Abd-al-Muhsin Jamal, an opposition MP. "But the ideal solution would be to eliminate the Iraqi regime and its president Saddam Husayn."

Jamal warned however that Iraq was bound to try and make propaganda gains out of the latest attack. [passage omitted]

"I'm satisfied with the attack but the efforts to overthrow Saddam Husayn have not been enough," said the deputy speaker of parliament, Ahmad al-Baqir.

The two MPs charged that Iraq was "still exporting trouble" to Kuwait by infiltrating agents across the border to carry out such attacks as the alleged assassination of Bush.

There was no immediate official reaction. But on the streets of Kuwait City, several people also called for tougher action against Iraq.

"I am for punitive attacks" on Iraq, said Muhammad Jabir, a 27-year-old employee in the tourism sector. Although Iraq "no longer poses a serious threat" to Kuwait, he wanted the "total destruction of the Iraqi regime."

Sabah al-'Anazi, a 29-year-old civil servant, urged "more attacks on Iraq to force Saddam to accept all United Nations resolutions."

Trial of Bush Would-Be Assassins Adjourned Until 28 Jun

NC2606170293 Paris AFP in English 1628 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Text] Kuwait City, June 26 (AFP)—The trial of 14 men accused of plotting to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush adjourned until Monday [28 June] after two key Iraqi defendants who have pleaded guilty gave details of the aborted operation.

The hearings on Saturday lasted nine hours and focused on the testimony of Wali 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Ghazali and alleged ringleader Ra'd 'Abd-al-Amir al-Asadi, court officials said.

The two men pleaded guilty of links with the Iraqi intelligence services when the trial opened on June 5 at the Kuwait state security court.

Al-Ghazali said he was ordered by an Iraqi intelligence agent to kill Bush, during the ex-president's visit to Kuwait in mid-April while al-Asadi denied any knowledge of preparations to kill Bush.

On Saturday al-Ghazali told the court that the Iraqi authorities gave him a booby-trapped car which was destined to be used in a "suicide operation" to kill Bush. The defendant said he smuggled 10 explosives devices into Kuwait.

In a voice charged with emotion, al-Ghazali pleaded for divine clemency and the mercy of Kuwaiti ruler Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

Al-Ghazali also denounced the Iraqi authorities as "ruthless".

Al-Asadi testified that he had been forced by the Iraqi authorities to carry out the operation against Bush.

"But I ignored the orders and left the explosives in the desert," he said, adding that his instructions were to plant the Iraqi explosives in markets and other public places.

The two are among 11 Iraqis and a Kuwaiti against whom the chief prosecutor demanded the death penalty.

Iraq has denied any involvement, saying Bush was politically dead and not worth the explosives.

But a senior U.S. intelligence analysts this month said the White House had evidence linking Iraq to the failed assassination plot against Bush but will delay taking any action until the suspects were tried.

The men are also accused of attempting to carry out bomb attacks as well as collaboration with the Iraqi intelligence services, harming Kuwait and sowing panic among the citizens.

Two others are accused of harbouring the defendants as well as drug and alcohol smuggling and face up to five years in jail.

A Kuwaiti national and a stateless Arab were also arrested on suspicion of having harbored the accused would-be assassins but they were not charged.

A 17th Iraqi suspect is on the run.

A court source said the trial could last at least two months.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1339 GMT on 26 June transmits a Kuwait datelined report that adds the following: "First defendant Ra'd 'Abd-al-Amir al-Asadi confessed that he had received 80 kg of explosives from Iraqi intelligence only one day before coming to Kuwait. The second defendant, Wali 'Abd-al-Hadi was supposed to blow himself up with an explosive belt in front of Bush's car the minute it emerged from the airport."]

KUNA Reports Details of Trial

LD2606200293 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1712 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 26 Jun (KUNA)—Two main defendants in the case of the assassination attempt of former U.S. President George Bush during his visit to Kuwait last April, have renewed their confession today that Iraqi intelligence was behind that plot.

The first and the second defendants had explained at the first hearing of the State Security Court held at the beginning of June, the details of how Iraqi intelligence had instructed them to infiltrate into Kuwait to assassinate the former U.S. president during his visit to Kuwait University, and to blow up some of the commercial markets. They also alluded that Iraqi intelligence had provided them with funds, arms, and explosives to carry out that operation.

The Kuwaiti security authorities had foiled the attempt to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush, and had arrested 14 persons who were intending to carry out suicidal operations targeting the life of the former U.S. president and his companions during his visit to Kuwait, and other terrorist acts.

The court, at its hearing today that was held amid tight security measures, has cross-examined the two defendants once again and they have renewed their admittance of their involvement in the implementation of the Iraqi intelligence plan.

The two defendants have denied, during the hearing that was attended by a group of local and international information media representatives, being subjected to coercion to make their confessions during the investigations.

The first defendant, Ra'ad al-Asadi, 33 years old, an Iraqi national, said that an Iraqi intelligence man had asked him to take the second defendant with him to Kuwait in a Jeep car, that he claims he discovered later was booby- trapped, without knowing the aim of that request.

He stated that the Iraqi intelligence official, named Muhammad Jawad, had provided him with explosive charges to plant them in commercial shops and automobile showrooms in Kuwait.

The second defendant Wali al-Ghazali, who is 36 years old and is also an Iraqi national, said that Iraqi intelligence entrusted him with assassinating President Bush by putting the booby-trapped car near the University of Kuwait, because it was expected that the former U.S. president would go there to receive a doctorate degree that the university was going to award to him. He added that the person in charge of Iraqi intelligence presented him with a photograph showing the University of Kuwait building and pointed out to him where to place the car and how to detonate it with a remote control device.

Wali also said that the person in charge of intelligence also gave him a belt of explosives to put around his waist and to get as close as possible to Bush and blow him up in case the use of the booby-trapped car failed or in case he was arrested by the Kuwaiti security men. The second defendant cast doubts on the statements of the first defendant who alleged that he did not know about the Iraqi intelligence plan to kill Bush.

He also said that the first defendant knew that the car was booby-trapped, and in addition to that he returned to him the belt of explosives that he tried to hide inside the car. The two defendants pleaded for mercy from the court and said that they feared the anger of the Iraqi intelligence in case they refused to carry out the operation. [passage indistinct]

Information Minister on Bush Assassination Attempt

LD2706113093 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0806 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Kuwait, 27 Jun (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah has said in an interview with the American television network CNN that he is completely convinced that the Iraqi regime's secret service was involved in the attempt to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush last April. During the interview which was received here, he confirmed that when the defendants were interrogated they confessed their intentions. He explained that the marks of the

Baghdad regime's secret service agents were very clear from the way the explosive device placed in the booby-trapped car had been prepared. This method is only used by state secret services, he stated.

Shaykh Sa'ud indicated that the FBI investigators and the U.S. Government are satisfied with the results reached by Kuwait. The information minister emphasized that the Iraqi regime does not have a friend in the world and deserves the reactions it has received. Kuwait had arrested 14 defendants who had been set on carrying out suicide missions aimed at killing former U.S. President George Bush and those accompanying him during his visit to Kuwait, in addition to other terrorist acts, he said.

Premier on Claims Against Royal Family, Invasion Danger

LD2606111593 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0902 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 26 June (KUNA)—The National Assembly members held a session today at which they continued their debate on the issue of Kuwaiti investments. At the meeting, Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers, stressed the importance of discussion and serious work for the future of Kuwait.

At the extraordinary National Assembly session, which was chaired by Deputy Speaker Salih al-Fudalah, his highness the heir apparent expressed his sorrow and pain over the accusations made by deputies at last Tuesday's session against members of the ruling family and the government. His highness stressed that the government supports the National Assembly in all the measures and decisions it might adopt against those involved in the investments case, the losses of which in Spain are estimated at $5 billion.

His highness pointed out that the government could not be lenient with the group of employees abroad or in Kuwait who were involved directly or indirectly with the investments issue. He said: This is a fact I would like all my countrymen to hear. His highness said that the current circumstances are not right for us to continue a "tug-of-war policy, because everyone would pay the price, which is very high and will affect the country's independence and sovereignty."

His highness said that the laws will be applied to everyone without exception, favoritism, or distinction. He pointed out that the information and action have included the Auditing Office's report on investments abroad, which disturbed and pained the sons of the ruling family and members of the government. That is why the government did not delay taking the required legal measures. [passage omitted]

His highness stated that he will address the National Assembly at a closed session this evening on security issues and matters giving rise to concern and fear on his part and on the part of the members of the government. [passage omitted]

His highness said: We have to choose the path of the unity of word and rank. We must be extremely cautious and watchful in order to avoid a day when we might, God forbid, beat our breasts in regret. He pointed out that it is possible for the calamity of occupation to be repeated. He stated: This is not nonsense. It is based on observations of the intentions of the Haddam [destroyer; reference to Saddam Husayn] of Iraq, who together with his cronies is still trying to execute his hostile schemes.

'Huge' Explosion Reported in al-Jahra' Area

NC2706102293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0953 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Kuwait, 27 Jun (MENA)—A huge explosion occurred behind the al-Jahra' Cooperative Society west of Kuwait last night, destroying the society's buildings, sending shells flying everywhere. It is not known if there were casualties.

Criminal laboratory officials are examining the site to identify what kind of bomb and explosives caused this huge explosion.

The Kuwaiti security forces are surrounding the area and preventing citizens from approaching. Some individuals who were near the scene of the explosion are being interrogated.

A responsible security source did not say who was responsible but stressed that criminal laboratory experts and the security forces will reveal the real perpetrators.

Interior Ministry Denies Reports

LD2706190793 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] An official source at the Interior Ministry denied in a statement issued this evening reports to the effect that several explosions took place in various parts of Kuwait this morning. The source said that these reports are unfounded and no explosions had taken place as alleged by these reports.

He went on to add that the Interior Ministry does not hesitate to publish any reports pertaining to the security conditions in full clarity and promptly, to prevent publication of such fabricated reports. The source concluded its statement by saying that all the security organs work around the clock to monitor the security conditions minute by minute.

Telecommunications Tower Collapses; One Killed

LD2706115993 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0938 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Kuwait, 27 Jun (KUNA)—The telecommunications tower in the al-Sabahiyyah area [south of Kuwait city, near the town of al-Ahmadi] collapsed today during repair operations and removal of debris, causing the death of an Egyptian worker and seriously injuring six others, including two Kuwaiti firemen. The multistoreyed building was damaged during the first days of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait when it came under rocket fire, which caused many parts of it to collapse. Operations are still under way to save the rest of the workers who were at the tower site, while a search is going on for two persons who are missing and thought to be buried under the debris.

Yemen

Foreign Ministry Denounces U.S. Attack on Baghdad

JN2706210193 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] A Foreign Ministry official spokesman made the following statement:

The Republic of Yemen has followed the news about the U.S. missile attack on Baghdad, and it expresses its regret and denunciation of this negative development, which conflicts with the UN Charter and the entrenched principles of international law and human rights, and which killed or injured several unarmed innocent civilians.

The Republic of Yemen believes that differences between nations should be resolved in a manner other than by the use of force. It also believes that such a behavior harms security and stability in the region.

RCC Issues Statement on U.S. Airstrike 27 Jun

JN2706042393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0303 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Statement issued by the Iraqi Revolution Command Council in Baghdad on 27 June]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Great, mujahid, and patient Iraqi people, the sons of the glorious Arab nation, honest people throughout the world: From 0145 [2140 GMT on 26 June] to 0240 at dawn today, the United States committed a new unjust and cowardly aggression against Iraq. The U.S. forces fired cruise missiles on the headquarters of the Iraqi intelligence and the nearby civilian areas of al-Mansur and al-Ma'mun. The cowardly aggression martyred several civilian citizens in houses near the headquarters and wounded many others, including women and children. As a result of the aggression, citizens houses and civilian establishments sustained heavy damage.

The U.S. rulers tried to justify this cowardly aggression by linking it to the absurd and alleged plan to assassinate Bush, this plan, which was fabricated by the vile Kuwaiti rulers in coordination with agencies in the U.S. Administration which have sought and continue to seek to fabricate crises and lies to pursue their criminal policy against the Iraqi people.

Today's aggression is a continuation of the aggression that began against Iraq in January 1991; criminal aggression through which the United States and its agent rulers in the region had planned to control and plunder the resources of the region and subject it to the will of U.S. imperialism.

This aggression is blatant proof of the barbaric nature of the U.S. hegemony on the world. The mere and unfounded accusation that was fabricated by the U.S. agencies in collusion with their vile agents in Kuwait made the United States use missiles to attack Baghdad and kill its defenseless inhabitants.

This low and cowardly act exposes the state of degeneration in which the world has been living since the United States has controlled its fate. This is another chance to test the UN stand on these recurrent acts of aggression which the United states commits against the peoples of the world.

What has taken place and is taking place in Somalia is one of many examples of the state of degeneration the world has reached. Under the pretext of assisting the Somali people, the United States sent its forces to occupy that country. When the Somali people discovered the truth—that the operation is no more than a military occupation under false pretenses—and started to expose this fact, the United States moved from the lie of distributing food to the Somalis to firing missiles, bombs, and bullets at them.

The silence of the United Nations and the states of the world toward the aggressive U.S. behavior against Iraq and other countries has led and is leading to an escalation and expansion of the U.S. course of tyranny in a manner that threatens the security and peace in the entire world. Moreover, it puts the entire world in an unprecedented process of extortion and terrorism.

The United States, which is launching propaganda campaigns against Third World nations on the pretext that they possess certain types of weapons, uses its war arsenal for killing and destruction and destabilizes world security and stability.

For several months, the criminal U.S. propaganda machine has been inciting the new U.S. Administration to renew the aggression against Iraq. It depicted the new U.S. President as a weak person. Thus, the new U.S. President committed a criminal aggression against Iraq to deny this trait.

This game exposes the degenerated nature of the government institutions in the United States.

O great people of Iraq. You, esteemed Iraqis, have been the only people of the world to discover the reality of the new world order from the beginning. You said that this order is based on tyranny, terrorism, crime, and violation of all human norms, laws, and moralities.

All the peoples of the world, especially all the honest ones, now assume the heavy responsibility of exposing and confronting this imperialist and aggressive U.S. policy. If the facts had not been clear to them in the past, the 30-country aggression against Iraq, what is taking place in Somalia, and this new aggression against Baghdad offers them irrefutable proof of this barbaric peril to world security, peace, and stability, and to the bases of sovereignty and independence on the international level.

Brave Iraqis, by God you are a great people. Your great ability to endure the aggression with all its forms and types has angered the criminals who want to control the world through terrorism, blackmail, and aggression. The new unjust aggression is a new medal that decorates the chests of a heroic people and a militant homeland.

We ask God to have mercy on our pure martyrs, and we wish a speedy recovery to our wounded. Accursed be the killers and the criminals, the U.S. rulers whose hands are tarnished with the blood of the defenseless citizens in Iraq, Somalia, Palestine, and all parts of the world.

God is great, and cursed be the lowly. [Signed] The Revolution Command Council, Baghdad, 7 Muharram 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 27 June 1993

Saddam Chairs Joint Meeting To Assess Civilian Losses

JN2706134893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1329 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has chaired a joint meeting for the Revolution Command Council and the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. The results of the terrorist criminal aggression by the United States of America and the civilian losses were discussed during the meeting. Civilian targets and houses of innocent citizens, who were victims of this barbaric aggression, were hit in this American aggression.

The immediate necessary measures to treat the wounded men, women, and children, whose houses were directly hit in this cowardly treacherous action, were taken.

Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office, and 'Adnan Dawud Salman, director general of the Iraq Command Secretariat attended the meeting.

Foreign Ministry Summons Envoys, Condemns Attack

JN2706145193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1413 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] The Foreign Ministry today summoned the heads of all the diplomatic missions accredited to Iraq to inform them of the criminal U.S. attack against civilian targets in the al-Mansur and al-Ma'mun areas, which led to the martyrdom of a number of civilians and the injury of a great number, including women and children, in addition to grave damage caused to people's homes and civilian buildings.

Foreign Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd-al-Jabbar 'Umar al-Duri met with the heads of the missions representing the UN Security Council member states and informed them of Iraq's condemnation of this unjust and cowardly attack perpetrated by the United States. He explained to them the U.S. rulers' attempts to justify this cowardly act by linking it to the alleged story of the Bush assassination attempt, a lie fabricated by the despicable rulers of Kuwait in coordination with U.S. intelligence.

The under secretary asked the heads of the missions to inform their governments of this cowardly and unjustifiable act of aggression and stressed that such acts of aggression should not be tolerated. He said that these acts lead to the escalation of the U.S. policy of tyranny, threatening peace and security in the world.

At 1400 today, the under secretary accompanied the heads of the diplomatic missions on a tour to allow them to have a first hand look at the damage done to people's homes in the al-Mansur and al-Ma'mun areas, which is further proof of the barbarous U.S. aggression against Iraq and its great and steadfast people led by President Leader Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him.

Interior Minister, Intelligence Department Cable Saddam

JN2706203693 Baghdad Voice of Youth in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from Interior Minister fighter Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan in which he denounced the treacherous and cowardly aggression against Iraqi steadfastness and challenge. He stressed that the Interior Ministry employees will remain brandished swords in the hands of the leader to confront the agreession and bury the treacherous dreams of enemies.

Leader President Saddam Husayn received a cable of allegiance and loyalty from the Intelligence Department in which the members of the department pledged to his excellency to remain brandished swords to defend Iraq's security and safeguard its achievements.

Intelligence Chief Vows Revenge

JN2806133693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2150 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from the director of the Intelligence Department, which said: On these immortal days when we are close to the revolution anniversary of al-Husayn, father of martyrs, and after celebrating the anniversary of the prophet's migration [from Mecca to Medina], the aggressors returned with their evil and hatred targeting a symbol of struggle that has always proven its allegiance to your wise leadership and an honest protector of the homeland's security and accomplishments. It is the Intelligence Department, which grew under the canopy of jihad and which enjoyed your care and support until it was greatly feared by the oppressors. They are plotting against it and fabricating excuses to direct their spiteful arrows at it. But it is impossible for them to attain their target. Cursed be what they are doing.

What was inflicted on us by their treacherous crime was only a medal in which we take pride. We also boast before the world of having you. This will only increase our faith and determination to continue the triumphant march with great resolve and courage, thus following the steps of our great forefathers and taking you as a good example and high ideal. Please accept the greetings of the Intelligence Department, director and personnel. We pledge to uphold your banner for ever, to pursue anyone who dares to attack our dear Iraq, and severely punish the evil insects and place them where they belong—in the realm of curses and forgetfulness. Proceed forward. May you live long, sir.

Ambassador to EC on Assassination Charge, Raid

LD2806100793 London BBC Television Network in English 0700 28 Jun 93

[Interview with Dr. Zayid Haydar, ambassador to EC in Brussels, by announcer Philip Hayton; from the "Breakfast News" program—live]

[Text] [Hayton] What is your reaction to [words indistinct]?

[Haydar] [Words indistinct] criminal and terrorist aggression perpetrated against the lives of civilians and their homes.

[Hayton] First of all I am asking you what about the evidence that the Americans produced—that you made this bomb that was destined to try and kill former President Bush?

[Haydar] The question is what interest has Iraq to kill someone who is already politically dead. We don't have any evidence and the Government of Iraq denied and still denies any relation with alleged plot.

[Hayton] But the Americans say their agents have interviewed people in Kuwait. They have established the facts, you have seen the ambassador showing the photographs—and she talked about Iraq planning, equipping, and launching a terrorist operation, they are in no doubt about it.

[Haydar] No we want that these things be presented to impartial party.

[Hayton] What do you have in mind?

[Haydar] That any impartial party [changes thought] ... this is something organized and well organized between the American intelligence service and the Kuwaiti authorities.

[Hayton] But surely wouldn't it be in Iraq's interest to try and cause trouble to a former American president—a president with whom you were at war not long ago?

[Haydar] No, we have never any interest to kill someone who is already politically dead.

[Hayton] Assuming the Americans are right, what about their justification for the attack? They say it was in self-defense and backed by UN Article 51.

[Haydar] Yes, they say by self-defense, but they don't know what kind of aggression has Iraq committed toward them. The real way is that Americans are willing to impose their hegemony all over the world, in some place by military action, and some place in the world by economical diktat.

[Hayton] How much damage has this attack on Baghdad caused? Presumably it is a crippling blow to your intelligence services.

[Haydar] Yes, you know the intelligence services is placed exactly in a very heavy residential area, and very known in all the world to all who know Baghdad—it is 'Al-Mansur Headquarters. I don't think a missile coming in from the Red Sea cannot [word indistinct] some 10 or 20 meters—not more than 10 to 20 meters from its objective, that it may hurt the civilian targets. [sentence as heard].

[Hayton] So what are you going to do about it?

[Haydar] We are asking the international community what to do about this aggression, how they can stop such aggression from the United Nations.

Security Council Told of 'Cowardly Military Aggression'

JN2706170193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1602 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] New York, 27 Jun (INA)—Iraq has informed the UN Security Council of the latest cowardly military aggression committed against it by the United States at dawn today.

A letter from Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf delivered to the UN Security Council president by Iraq's permanent UN representative, Nizar Hamdun, today said that U.S. warships deployed in the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf hit the headquarters of the intelligence services and surrounding areas in the center of Baghdad with cruise missiles.

The oppressive, cowardly act of aggression led to the martyrdom of a number of civilians in neighboring houses and left many wounded, including women and children, the letter stated. It observed that the oppressive American aggression was preceded by many hours of flights by American U-2 spy planes during the past few days over Baghdad under the cover of carrying out reconnaissance missions for the UN Special Commission, thus proving that this plane is being used for spying and preparing aggression on Iraq.

The foreign minister called on the Security Council and the international community to live up to their responsibilities and move to halt the recurrent barbaric U.S. acts of aggression against Iraq.

He emphasized that the silence of the United Nations over repeated U.S. crimes against Iraq and the people of the world has encouraged the aggressive American Administration to go too far in its crimes and to pursue its attempts to dominate the world with armed force, systematic terror, and blackmail.

INA Says 4 U.S. Missiles 'Shot Down,' 'Defused'

JN2706215693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2108 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Al-Fallujah, 50 km west of Baghdad, 27 Jun (INA)—The ground defenses affiliated with the Air

Defense in al-Habbaniyah in the al-Anbar Governorate last night shot down two cruise missiles fired by the United States in its new unjust aggression against civilian areas in al-Fallujah area. In a statement to INA, Mahmud Ibrahim al-Juraysi, administrative officer of the al-Fallujah district, said that the two missiles were shot down at 0200 today [2300 GMT on 26 June].

INA learned that two other (?cruise) missiles were also shot down in Abu Ghurayb area and that the four missiles were defused and removed.

Baghdad Radio Cites Powell on Stray Cruise Missiles

JN2806044493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 28 Jun 93

[Text] Colin Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, has admitted that some of the cruise missiles fired at Baghdad at dawn yesterday hit residential areas. Interviewed by CNN in Washington yesterday, Powell said at least three cruise missiles missed their targets and hit residential areas, causing human losses.

Air Defense units in al-Habbaniyah and the al-Anbar Governorate shot down two cruise missiles fired by the United States in its new unjust aggression against residential areas in the al-Fallujah District after midnight yesterday. Another two missiles were shot down over Abu Ghurayb.

European and U.S. political analysts attribute President Clinton's new aggression against Iraq to his shaky domestic political position, the failure of U.S. policy in other parts of the world, the great difficulties facing the implementation of his promised economic reforms, and the large erosion of his popularity.

Reporters Visit Damaged Civilian Areas

JN2706130993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jun (INA)—Correspondents from international television networks, international news agencies, and the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY have been acquainted with the effects of the new aggressive crime that the United States committed against Iraq at 0145 today, resulting in a number casualties among innocent, defenseless civilians.

Correspondents of the REUTER Television Network, the World Television Network—WTN, the independent British television network—ATN [as received], REUTER, XINHUA, and TANJUG; ASSOCIATED PRESS and AFP photographers; and an INA correspondent paid field visits to the civilian houses that have been turned into rubble by U.S. Tomahawk missiles. They also observed the panic that prevailed in residential areas that were hit by these missiles.

The reporters also followed up on efforts to recover the bodies of the victims from under the debris. They took photos of the shattered remains of some cars that landed in yards and on rooftops as a result of the missile strike. The missiles caused big craters that filled with water where the demolished houses had stood. The area and its streets were turned into pools on which scattered pieces of furniture and personal belongings were floating.

The INA correspondent held interviews with a number of citizens in which they spoke about this ugly crime and cowardly aggressive action by the U.S. Administration. They refuted the flimsy pretexts that the U.S. Administration used to justify its cowardly action.

Citizen Mahir Hisham Mahir al-Salman, who lives at house No. 27, al-Amirat Street, told correspondents that he and his family were sound asleep when the missiles of aggression shook the pillars of his house after one of the missiles landed on the house across the street, killing three citizens and seriously injuring four others from the same family.

Citizen Salim Hamid al-'Ali, an attorney, said that one of the missiles landed on one of his two adjacent homes, one of which adjoins the Venezuelan Embassy in Baghdad, which was partly damaged.

He added that he and his son and daughter were living in one of the two houses, and that the missile landed on the other house, which was being rented by an eight-member family, all of whom miraculously escaped death but sustained various wounds.

He explained that one of the missiles made a crater measuring over 10 meters deep in his house and resulted in its destruction, and damaged over 15 cars in the neighborhood.

He said that the impact of the explosion was so strong that a car was carried off to the rooftop of one of the houses.

The INA correspondent, who accompanied reporters during the tour, said that a number of houses were completely demolished, and that the rescue teams were still looking for victims under the debris. He indicated that up to the time of the visit, the teams managed to recover the body of citizen 'Abd-al-Khaliaq 'Abd-al-Amir Hasan Juraydan, 64. Meanwhile, Civil Defense teams were working to recover the body of his wife—the well-known painter Layla al-'Attar, director general of the Saddam Arts Center—who was killed as a result of the cowardly aggression.

Afterward, the reporters moved to another residential area hit by the missiles of the U.S. aggressors. One of the missiles turned the house of citizen Ma'n Muhammad 'Abdu al-Qaysi, 38, into debris. He and his infant were martyred in the incident. The reporters and INA correspondent also visited those wounded by the missiles of aggression in one of Baghdad's hospitals. In interviews, they talked about the aggressive raid, its destructive effects, and the panic that prevailed among citizens following the heinous crime.

Muhammad Husayn Kalash, 26, a wounded citizen, said that this cowardly action by the U.S. Administration will only increase the proud Iraqis' insistence on safeguarding their sovereignty, dignity, and national unity. This treacherous action will not prevent the Iraqis from continuing their sacrifices and enriching the march led by President leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, he added.

Citizen 'Atiyah 'Alwan, wounded as a result of the hostile missile attack, said all that we offer to Iraq will not be enough to honor an iota of Iraq's pure soil, baptized by the chaste blood of its zealous sons while they were defending Iraq's pride, loftiness, and dignity.

Citizen Rashid Ahmad, 37, asserted that the U.S. Administration, regardless of its power, cannot terminate the Iraqis' profound love for their cherished homeland and their beloved leader, President Saddam Husayn, adding that this administration knows more than any other party the fact that the Iraqis love their leader and rally around his unique historic leadership, and that they deeply believe in the principles of good, amity, and peace, which he had spread among them.

Citizen Muhammad 'Awwad Zab, 33, wondered about the justification the Clinton administration will use in order to explain its cowardly action to the world peoples, especially since the Iraqis now enjoy security and tranquility and are preoccupied with reconstruction in order to reply to the sinful aggression and confirm their civilized role among the world peoples. He said: It seems that the U.S. Administration's eagerness for aggression was not satisfied with the embargo, so it fabricated excuses and justifications to repeat its aggressive miliary policy. This administration is today a captive of the fatal strategic mistake made by the former administration, he added.

An INA correspondent said that the competent sources explained to him that the number of martyrs is still unknown because the rescue operations have not ended yet.

One of the missiles of the cowardly U.S. attack on Baghdad at dawn today inflicted damage on the Venezuelan Embassy. Another missile martyred the known painter Layla al-'Attar, director general of Saddam Arts Center, and her husband. An INA correspondent, who visited the scenes where two missiles landed at dawn today, said the Civil Defense teams recovered the body of 'Abd-al-Khaliq 'Abd-al- Amir Husayn Juraydan, 64, husband of the known painter Layla al- 'Attar, and the body of Khadijah, the housemaid. The teams managed to save the lives of Raya al-'Attar, 24, Layla's sister; Rim 'Abd- al-Khaliq, 22, Layla's daughter; Haydar 'Abd-al-Khaliq, Layla's son, recovering them from beneath the rubble of the building and furniture and mud.

The INA correspondent explained that there were no people in the Venezuelan Embassy in the al-Amirat Street in the al-Mansur area when one of the treacherous missiles landed on a nearby building. He pointed out that this missile inflicted heavy damage on the two buildings adjacent to this embassy and that their 11 inhabitants escaped death because they sought refuge in the back rooms of the two buildings.

Baghdad TV Shows Wounded, Damage Caused by Strike

JN2706134193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1023 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jun (INA)—Leg wounds caused by U.S. missile shrapnel left blood and deep pain on the face of a child as a gift from the advocates of new civilization and human rights.

A film clip screened by Baghdad Television at noon today showed children, women, and elderly victims of shrapnel wounds from the American missiles of malice that landed in Baghdad at dawn today. The film showed the severe damage caused to houses in the savagely shelled area as well as the damage caused to cars and civilian property, which was scattered over a vast area. It also showed the rescue operations and first aid and civil defense activities and the equipment used to pull away some of the roofs of the buildings destroyed in the treacherous missile attack.

Several clips were shown of a large number of residents and others who rushed to the scene, shouting God is great, death to America, the enemy of nations, and disgrace to the vile ones affiliated with it.

Some foreign television correspondents were seen shooting pictures of the results of the U.S. Administration's aggressiveness and the unilateral world policy, which was crowned with treachery, blood, and harm to the peoples struggling for a bright future.

Health Minister Sees 'Victims of the Sinful Aggression'

JN2706190493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Health Minister Umid Midhat Mubarak has said that the picture of members of the general public of all ages rushing to hospitals to donate blood in the aftermath of the latest criminal act of aggression against proud Baghdad bears testimony to the citizens' resolve to stand their ground against aggression. In statements to a correspondent of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY during a visit to victims of the sinful aggression this morning, the minister said this surge of enthusiasm to donate blood is fresh evidence that the population is solidly behind its revered leader Saddam Husayn and its defiance of all forms of aggression, no matter how ferocious, in order to press on with the triumphant march and thwart the enemies' hostile plots. The cowardly, treacherous attack at residential neighborhoods once again exposes the barbarity of the attackers and their undisguised ill-will toward other peoples, the minister said.

AFP Reports 10,000 March in Funeral Procession

NC2706163393 Paris AFP in English 1620 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Baghdad, June 27 (AFP)—About 10,000 angry Iraqis marched in a funeral procession for six civilians reported killed in Sunday's [27 June] U.S. missile attack on Iraq's intelligence headquarters in a Baghdad residential area.

Marchers took turns carrying the coffins of the six victims of the pre-dawn attack, as they walked for more than two kilometers (miles) through Baghdad's streets, an AFP correspondent said.

Hospital sources said that one of the people hurt in the raid died of his injuries, changing the casualty toll to six dead and three wounded.

There were no reports of deaths or injuries in the intelligence building. [passage omitted]

A rescue official said four homes and 50 cars were destroyed and 33 homes damaged, when U.S. warships in the Gulf and the Red Sea fired 23 Tomahawk cruise missiles.

Prayers Performed as 'Martyrs' Buried

JN2706225293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1949 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jun (INA)—Millions of Iraqis this evening performed prayers in the mosques of Baghdad and the Iraqi governorates for the souls of Iraq's martyrs who fell in the criminal American aggression against Iraq.

Churches and monasteries also held services for the souls of the victims of the American aggression.

Baghdad's masses took to the streets today to bury the righteous martyrs in angry mammoth marches through which the citizens expressed their anger at and denunciation of the hideous aggression against defenseless people.

Masses March To Protest 'Crimes' of 'Waffling Clinton'

JN2706213093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2056 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jun (INA)—Baghdad and the Iraqi Governorates today witnessed mammoth protest marches in which the masses expressed their anger at and denunciation of the hideous crimes perpetrated by waffling Clinton—the crime represented by the strike at Baghdad in which many defenseless citizens were killed.

The masses of Baghdad and the governorates expressed their denunciation and condemnation of the cowardly American aggression against the dear city of Baghdad in which citizens' houses were shelled with treacherous missiles that fell on houses of defenseless citizens. As a result of this cowardly and treacherous act, a number of innocent people were martyred.

The masses affirmed that these treacherous aggressive acts by the forces of imperialism and Zionism will strengthen the Iraqis' steadfastness and confidence in splendid victory and in defeating the desperate and failing aggressors.

U.S. Travel Advisory for Overseas Nationals Reported

JN2806075793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 28 Jun 93

[Text] The United States has warned its nationals traveling abroad that they may be exposed to retaliatory operations targeting their lives. This came in a statement by the U.S. Department of State following the treacherous missile attack on Baghdad at dawn yesterday. This attack evoked a wave of wrath and indignation in the Arab and world streets.

Butrus-Ghali Briefed on 'Treacherous U.S. Aggression'

JN2706193293 Baghdad Voice of Youth in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali met at his place of residence in Cairo today with Ambassador Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative at the Arab League. The INA correspondent in Cairo learned that the ambassador briefed Dr. Butrus-Ghali on the details of the treacherous U.S. aggression against Iraq which resulted in the killing of several defenseless citizens.

The UN secretary general arrived in Cairo to attend the 29th African summit to begin there tomorrow.

Withholds Comment on Attack

JN2706192593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali has withheld comment on the American attack on the Iraqi intelligence headquarters in Baghdad. AFP reports that persistent questioning by journalists attending the OAU summit in Cairo failed to elicit any response from Ghali.

Arab League Chief Informed of 'Criminal Aggression'

JN2706224593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Iraq has informed the Arab League of the blatant aggression carried out by the United States against a number of residential areas and civilian sites. The INA correspondent in Cairo said that Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative at the Arab League, conveyed to the Arab League secretary general yesterday [27 June] a message from the Iraqi foreign minister detailing the criminal aggression against Iraq.

Condemnation of Assault Urged

NC2706162093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1557 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA)—Iraq today conveyed a message to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid from Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf calling on the Arab League to denounce and condemn the U.S. assault on Baghdad last night. A responsible source at the Iraqi mission at the Arab League said that the message dealt with the assault and considered it to be an oppressive aggression against Iraq. He said that the message noted that a number of civilian citizens were martyred in homes adjacent to the Iraqi Intelligence Headquarters, and that a large number of people, including women and children, were wounded, in addition to the extensive damage to civilian buildings and installations.

The message notes Iraq's accusing the United States of launching an unprecedented deliberate terrorist attack under flimsy pretexts. The message casts doubt on the justification given for the attack—that it was in retaliation for an attempt to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush. The message noted that U-2 spy planes flew reconnaissance sorties for long hours over Baghdad on the days before the attack under the cover of UN missions.

Arab, Other Organizations Urged To Decry 'Aggression'

JN2706141293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Latif Nusayyif Jasim, deputy chairman of the World Council for Peace and head of the Friendship and Peace and Solidarity Organization in Iraq, has called upon friendship societies, Arab and other peace committees, nongovernmental organizations, and Iraq's friends around the world to denounce the new act of aggression committed by the United States. His appeal was made today to all the people of honor in the world. The appeal said: On 27 June 1993, in keeping with an ongoing pattern of aggression against Iraq, Baghdad came under a new American missile strike that claimed the lives of innocent civilians. This act of aggression confirms Iraq's argument that the new world order initiated by the United States is but a warlike, expansionist, and imperialist system seeking the domination of free and independent nations. Furthermore, it is an order that authorizes the sole oppressive power to violate the sovereignty of independent nations and meddle in their internal affairs and loot their resources.

The call indicated that the United States sought to explain away its latest aggression by claiming—as part of a deliberately-built scenario—that Iraq plotted the attempt on Bush's life. It is an unfounded claim, a trick for which you will not fall, Jasim said.

He called for a denunciation of this unjustifiable act of aggression against our people who have been under siege for three years, since this outrage is not directly at Iraq alone, but at world security and peace as well. It is an integral part of your responsibilities to take concrete measures against such practices in solidarity with Iraq and its steadfast people and in the interest of security and peace.

Islamic Group Urges Muslims To Denounce Attack

JN2706203193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] The General Secretariat of the Popular Islamic Organization Conference [PIOC] called on intellectuals of the Islamic nations, leaders of Islamic thought, and heads of Islamic parties, organizations, and sociehies all over the world to denounce, condemn, and expose the new U.S. aggression against Baghdad and to stop that aggression.

In a statement issued today, the secretariat stressed that the new U.S. aggression reflects the hidden hatred of the U.S. leadership toward the mujahid and patient Iraqi people, who are carrying the flag of pride and dignity.

The statement said the aggression has coincided with the aspirations of our mujahid leadership to raise the flag of the Koran and to develop teaching of the Koran for all educational grades. This has angered them and made them lose their senses so God's houses and the houses of the innocent citizens have not been spared by their aggression.

The statement called on all the faithful not to remain silent because this silence encouraged the aggressors to go further in their aggression. It said the Muslims should raise their voices loudly and expose and condemn the aggression, and to do what religious duty necessitates toward it.

It calls for demonstrations in front of the embassies of the countries of aggression and the exposure this aggression and its evil intentions at the next Friday prayers.

The PIOC Secretariat General also urged the mosques' imams all over the world to pray for the souls of righteous martyrs—the defenseless victims of the missiles of aggression who were at their houses when attacked. It called messages to the secretaries general of the United Nations, the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization, and various humanitarian organizations so that they will assume their required role in confronting the aggression and condemning the aggressors.

The statement hailed the faithful, mujahid, and patient Iraqi leadership, and blessed its efforts to entrench the Islamic [word indistinct] and serving the book of God, and called on the Muslims to join this leadership in being firm on the right path and in confronting the aggression.

APFC Secretary General Condemns U.S. Missile Attack

JN2706144093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] The General Secretariat of the Arab Popular Forces Conference [APFC] has vigorously condemned the unjust U.S. missile attack against the Iraq of victorious leader, Saddam Husayn. Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, secretary general of the APFC, said that in collusion with its humiliated slaves, the rulers of Kuwait, the U.S. Administration fabricated a badly directed story in order to peddle its third sinful aggression against a genuine and peaceful people, who believe in their right to a free, independent, and honorable life.

He added that Bush and Clinton are ugly faces of the arrogant U.S. hostility, which is backed by a tyrannical force and wants to impose hegemony over the world's nations without any moral consideration. The APFC secretary general urged the Arab masses and their active vanguards and strugglers throughout the great homeland to use all kinds of expression of protest and to angrily denounce the new U.S. aggression. President Clinton's administration tried to establish itself as an arbiter, while it is really the deadly foe of Iraq and the nation and carried out its cowardly decision against the capital of steadfastness and challenge, which lives under the banner of God is great, held by leader Saddam Husayn, hero of the immortal Mother of Battles.

Sa'd Qasim Hammudi affirmed that U.S. indifference and impudence have reached an indescribable point of departure from international laws and moral values and principle. It has put the United Nations and the Security Council to test once again, after the latter has become a humiliated tool in the machine of aggression and for ugly U.S. dominance.

Concluding his statement, the APFC secretary general said that the blood of innocent children, women, and elderly victims will remain a mark of disgrace on the foreheads of Clinton and his evil allies and will further increase the heroic Iraqi people's insistence on continuing the march toward the peaks behind victorious leader Saddam Husayn until clear victory, God willing.

Kurdistan Legislative Council Condemns U.S. Strike

JN2706171893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1522 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jun (INA)—The Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region has condemned the cowardly new U.S. missile aggression against great Iraq and its proud people.

Baha' al-Din Ahmad, head of the Legislative Council, said that the aggression, which once again targeted peaceful Baghdad, as well as the citizens' safety and lives, proves that the law of the jungle governs the colonialist West and its shameless policy and behavior and also conflicts with the slogans of democracy and civilization about which the West is boasting.

He asserted that the Western alliance, led by the United States, is still exercising state terrorism throughout the world under the cover of the United Nations and its legitimacy. The world, however, rejects hegemony and fragmentation.

The head of the Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region said that the enemies' missiles will not be able to prevent our mujahid, steadfast people, as well as all the good sons of our Kurdish people, from sticking to their strong will, their heroic steadfastness, their rallying around their leader Saddam Husayn, and their insistence on defending our dear Iraq.

INC Opposition Group Blames Saddam for Attack

LD2706181293 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1612 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] London, 27 Jun (KUNA)—The main Iraqi opposition group said here today that there is "no question the Mukharabat in Baghdad is the organization that supervises Saddam's campaign of international terrorism." Commenting on the U.S. military strike against the headquarters of the Iraqi Mukhabarat, the Iraqi National Council [INC] opposition group said that "the head of the Iraqi regime has again exposed the Iraqi people to danger through his adventures and his desire to take revenge, which caused the attack on the Mukhabarat headquarters."

INC Executive Council Chairman Dr. Ahmad al-Chalabi said in a statement released here that the main force of the Iraqi Mukhabarat is a person named 'Ali Hasan al-Majid who is a cousin of the head of the Iraqi regime. The statement pointed out that the Iraqi Mukhabarat has a long history of "involvement in international terrorism and assassinations, and there is in fact a special bureau for these operations."

The statement said the officer in charge of that bureau is named Faruq Hijazi and that the INC has appealed to the UN Security Council to investigate Hijazi and the crimes he has committed against humanity.

The statement went on to say that the Iraqi Mukhabarat carried out "terrorist attacks in the United Kingdom, France, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria, the United States, Jordan, Russia, Pakistan, and other countries in the Middle East and in Asia."

The statement concluded by appealing to the international community "to put the leadership of the Iraqi regime on trial and not merely strike at its buildings."

Commentaries Assail U.S. Strike, Urge Firm Respone

'Treacherous Renegades' Doomed

JN2706063193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0512 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Unscheduled commentary]

[Text] Regardless of the power with which they came and irrespective of the justifications they cited, they remain mere treacherous renegades who will not be able to beautify their treacherous action. Bankruptcy will be the end result of their aims. They mobilized all the hardware, mercenaries, and agents in their arsenal of aggression. They went too far in their propaganda, falsehoods, slander, and forged facts. Nevertheless, they failed to shake the proud faith with which hearts abound. Do they now think they can shake that faith by what they did last night? They cannot vie with the Iraqi people's patience and they will not be able to shake even a single Iraqi palm leaf regardless of the treacherous power with which they came this time. They should know that curses befall only those who disavow human rights. They should also know that with every new spiteful onslaught against Iraq, a new Iraqi field grows, an additional school is built, and another heart flourishes with confidence and faith in the future.

Strike Proves Clinton 'Shaky, Weak'

JN2706072593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0525 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: In today's issue, the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH publishes an editorial by [Chief Editor] Hani Wuhayyib. The editorial says: For a considerable length of time, the Clinton administration has been escalating its psychological warfare against our steadfast country. This has been done through continued statements on an alleged Iraqi attempt to assassinate Bush in Kuwait in April. Throughout this period, this administration continued to launch maneuvers and make contradictory statements about such allegations. Once, they said that available evidence was unconvincing. Then, they claimed they were continuing investigations. Besides, this allegation has been denied by several U.S. departments, including the Defense Department and the U.S. intelligence service. All this has been accompanied by both blatant and veiled threats against steadfast and defiant Iraq.

Lastly, they launched their treacherous, cowardly strike, which targeted residential districts in the glorious, immortal Baghdad of [Muslim caliph] al-Rashid and great Saddam Husayn. This exposed, criminal, and lowly action indicates that the Clinton administration is pursuing criminal Bush's policy of antagonizing the people and historic leadership of Iraq and of fabricating pretexts and justifications to continue the launching of aggressive, treacherous strikes against Iraq after the failure of the scheme of blockade and starvation to weaken its determination.

This cowardly action has proved that Clinton is shaky and weak and that he has failed to learn the lessons that proud Iraqis taught his criminal predecessor, Bush. This is because the heroic Iraqis have known the U.S. missiles and aircraft and scoffed at all their firepower in the immortal Mother of All Battles and in the second abortive aggression [of 17 January 1993]. The Iraqis managed in a record time to launch their counteroffensive of reconstruction, something which made the aggressors lose their minds. Thus, they began to consider all forms of plotting against Iraq and its unity and of targeting its historic leadership. Their latest abortive attempt has been their fresh treacherous aggression during the night of 26 to 27 June.

By this lowly action, and by Clinton's speech, which is full of lies and fabrications to justify this treacherous aggression, the Clinton administration has proved it is deeply involved in the course of arrogance and self-deceit. Clinton's bragging about what he called missile strikes reflect narrow-mindedness and contradictory approach toward so-called international crises. And his false statements on America's giving up intervention in world arenas demonstrate the U.S. double standards. This has been referred to by Western news media, including the BBC Middle East correspondent's description of the treacherous strike, as the biggest strategic and political mistake and something that would agitate the Arab masses against the Clinton administration.

Finally, this treacherous strike will not affect in the least the steadfastness of our people. Nay, it will increase our people's firmness and rallying around their historic leader and symbol, Saddam Husayn. It will inspire them to continue their march of jihad. Our valiant Armed Forces will remain the homeland's impregnable shield, always ready to defend our homeland and nation and to confront all forms of U.S. aggression.

Let our people continue their victorious march. Down with the traitors and dwarves. God is great. We are victorious.

UN 'Obedient Tool' of U.S.

JN2706064893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0538 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Unscheduled commentary]

[Text] The cowards did it once again. Once again they directed the missiles of black hatred at Baghdad, the city of glory and pride, Baghdad of the triumphant leader Saddam Husayn. Do they not know that all their armies, which they unjustly massed in Hafar al-Batin, and all the weapons they prepared could not shake even by a hair's breadth the Iraqis' steadfastness? Do they still not know that a people that have decided to defend their present and future cannot be shaken by a number of missiles fired by cowards thousands of miles away? As a result of the degeneration of the United Nations, and the fact that the dirtiest imperialist world power is leading it, this organization has turned into an obedient tool in the hands of the United States of America, the first tyrannical power in the world. This organization remains silent about aggression, if not standing behind it. We tell them: The more they brag about their aggression, the firmer and stronger are our people in their confrontation of their schemes, which will end up in total failure. The United Nations, led by the top imperialist world power, has sunk so low that it became an obedient tool in the hands of the United States of America. This cowardly action was expected and will continue to be expected as long as Iraq continues to obstinately keep up its head and to be impregnable to the colonialists whose hands were stained with the blood of the Iraqi children, women, and elderly in their tyrannical imperialist aggression. But they will never be able to turn Iraq away from its determination and insistence on adhering to its sovereignty and independence and defending its legitimate rights under the banner of triumphant leader Saddam Husayn, who led the people and nation to the peaks of glory, dignity, and loftiness.

INA Reports Press Comments

JN2706101693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 27 Jun (INA)—The Iraqi newspapers appeared today with major headlines strongly denouncing the heinous new U.S. crime against civilian Iraqi targets, resulting in many casualties among innocent civilians.

The papers appeared with the following major headlines on their front pages: "A New Heinous U.S. Crime; The Aggression Targeted Residential Areas in Baghdad; An Official U.S. Acknowledgement of the Aggression."

The front pages report: Early today, the U.S. Administration's criminals committed a new crime when they fired cruise missiles on residential areas in the capital city of Baghdad. The strike resulted in the martyrdom and injury of a number of children, women, and elderly people, and in the destruction of residential buildings.

According to what the U.S. Administration stated in Washington, this new crime comes in retaliation for an alleged Iraqi attempt to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush during his visit to Kuwait in April. This allegation has been denied by several U.S. circles, including the Defense Department and the U.S. intelligence service.

Under the headline: "An Official U.S. Acknowledgement of the Aggression Under a New Pretext," the papers report that the U.S. Administration launched a new criminal aggression against our country. U.S. President Bill Clinton, Defense Secretary Les Aspin, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell, admitted that Tomahawk cruise missiles were used to launch a U.S. military aggression against Iraq on the pretext that the aggression is in retaliation for an attempt to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush during his visit to Kuwait.

Taha al-Basri, editor in chief of the newspaper AL-THAWRAH, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, writes an editorial which says: The cowards have done it again. They have fired their missiles of black hatred on glorious, proud Iraq.

He said: Don't they remember that all the armies they unjustly assembled in Hafar al-Batin and all the weapons they prepared were completely unable to harm the Iraqis' steadfastness and firmness? Haven't they learned that our people have decided to defend their present and future and cannot be intimidated by some missiles fired by the cowards from a distance of several thousands miles?

The writer adds: The United Nations, under the world's dirtiest imperialists, has degenerated to such an extent that it has become an obedient tool in the hands of the United States, the major unjust imperialist force in the world, and adopted an indifferent stand toward aggression, if not supporting it.

He continues: Such cowardly actions were expected and will continue to be expected as long as Iraq stands with its head high and continues to resist the colonialists, whose hands have been stained with the blood of Iraqi children, women, and elderly people during their unjust aggression.

We tell them that the more arrogantly they persist in their aggression, the firmer and more steadfast our people become.

Under the headline "The Third Failure," Ramzi al-Sa'dun writes an article in which he said: After their second aggression during Bush's last days, they have returned for a third aggression in the first months of the Clinton presidency. Once again, they have come to reap failure. In these actions, they prove their mental and political sterility: Does any sane person believe that some missiles will weaken the steadfastness of the faithful Iraqis, who bravely and valiantly confronted the aggression of over 30 armies? The writer explains that had the biggest rival of the United States faced such aggression, it would have collapsed and kneeled down before its feet.

Addressing the aggressors, the writer says: If you have committed this aggression to further extort the lowly ones, we will not be harmed by that. Your henchmen are used to being used. And if you have committed your aggression in attempt to encourage your desperate agents, this will be of no use. [passage omitted]

The newspaper BABIL attributes the new U.S. aggression against Iraq to heavy Zionist pressures on President Clinton, who has been described as undecided.

In an editorial today, the paper describes as ridiculous and flimsy the pretexts that the Clinton administration has used to justify the new aggression, noting that the absurdity of such pretexts was made evident on many occasions.

The paper refers in this regard to the White House's failure to peddle its pretexts or to convince the public about them. It says that the Western mass media, despite their connection with the intelligence services and political circles, could not defend such a lie.

BABIL recalls how the Kuwaiti rulers initiated the lie of Iraq's involvement in a plan to assassinate Bush and how the Clinton administration dealt with it. The paper says that the undecided administration did not believe that lie but pretended to have done so to cover its aggression against the people of Iraq.

The paper describes President Clinton's hostile move against Iraq as a strategic mistake, saying that undecided Clinton and his administration have lost as a result of this aggression.

The paper says that through this new aggression, the U.S. President has assassinated his reputation and proved that he is a weak man in the face of pressure. He proved that he is not the man whom the Americans hoped for while they were experiencing the most difficult circumstances, and that he, like other rulers of the United States, is a mere dummy manipulated by the Zionist fingers in a fashion that calls for shame rather than pride.

'Aggression' Based on Kuwaiti 'Lie'

JN2706090693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0705 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Unscheduled commentary]

[Text] What does America want to say through its new cowardly aggression against our great Iraq? What part of its tyrannical and reckless policy and behavior does it seek to expose? America already said everything it wanted to say when it led the armies of more than 30 allies or agents of Zionism through its expansionist ambitions in its tyrannical and treacherous aggression. America has already exposed its hateful tyrannical policy to the entire world, especially since most of the world nations and states have not been spared from America's aggression and hostility. Most of these nations had already confronted and strongly resisted America's tyranny and oppression, breaking quite a number of its ribs and teeth in several parts of the world.

The U.S. Administration's justification for its latest cowardly aggression against great Iraq was based on a lie previously propagated by its agents, the rulers imposed on Kuwait. They spoke about an abortive attempt to assassinate the war criminal, the cursed Bush, last April. This absurd pretext of aggression against Iraq came to further expose the constant U.S. policy of tyranny and terrorism.

The U.S. Administration has called for a Security Council session to further expose its miserable motives for perpetrating this aggression and criminal America's new blatant policy of exploiting the United Nations and its organizations in an unprecedented ugly manner, thus turning this international organization into a submissive satellite to the American State Department and an office for the Pentagon and the American intelligence service, contrary to the known charter of this United Nations. Can there be anything worse than these blatant American scandals? Will the world states and nations continue to need more of them?

Iraq's major battle, the immortal Mother of Battles, was and will continue to expose America's aggressiveness and reveal the spirit of evil and tyranny overtaking its administrators, whose actions are motivated by their strong links with Zionism and its evils and declared ambitions. It is time for all nations to realize the meanness of the hostile U.S. policy and to employ all possible means to strongly confront it so that it will not spread further. Iraq of the great leader, Saddam Husayn, is today an example to be emulated by the free people and mujahidin all over the world.

Attack, 'New World Order' Rejected

JN2706111893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] 27 Jun (INA)—The international affairs editor of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY says that another crime has been added to the shameful U.S. chapters. There has been a new unjust and cowardly aggression targeting residents in their homes and intimidating children, women, and old people, thus adding another chapter stained with the blood of righteous martyrs, who have made the most splendid epics of heroism, defiance, loftiness, and pride for both great Iraq and the Arab nation.

The editor adds: The makers of the new world order—order which the Iraqis were the first people to reject and denounce—will continue to curse their bad luck after each crime they commit against the people who believed in their right to life and progress. This progress has kept awake the leaders of Zionism in the United States and the West, as well as their supporters in terms of the lowly agents residing in the Arab region or those who call themselves Arabs.

The editor explains that this aggression was not a feat carried out by knights or by the advocates of freedom—freedom which is symbolized by a statue pointing to their black house which concocts plots against the world peoples. This aggression will forever stigmatize both the U.S. Administration and its cowardly allies. These allies are involved in a losing game, given the steadfastness of both the sons of great Iraq and its courageous leader, beloved Saddam Husayn. By means of Saddam Husayn's deeds and achievements for his people, we daily embitter the enemies of the rising Arab Iraq.

The editor urges the world peoples and all honorable men carrying the banner of freedom and independence, to hoist this banner high alongside Iraq's banner, the banner of rejection, which bears the slogan: God is great, against all these murderers who carry out abominable actions and who raise the slogan of hegemony, terrorism, and crime, and also who daily and everywhere violate all norms, laws, morals, and virtues advocated by the divine laws. He also emphasizes that all honorable people of the world should assume the historic responsibility to expose this aggressive imperialist-Zionist policy led by the United States and its president, who carried out this stupid and cowardly action.

Clinton 'Lying' to Americans

JN2706115293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1013 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Unscheduled commentary]

[Text] The U.S. Administration makes a big mistake if it imagines that the silly reasons it cited to justify its new cowardly aggression against great Iraq can convince anyone other than its agents and submissive hirelings. The U.S. Administration makes a bigger mistake if it turns its disdain of international laws and relinquishment of sound logic into a policy toward great Iraq. It is thus proving to the entire world that it is in the forefront of the world powers not only in terms of strength and vigor, but also in terms of arrogance and violation of international laws and charters, especially since many of the U.S. organs and departments have denied the news propagated by the rulers imposed on Kuwait about the so-called discovery of a plot to assassinate the cursed war criminal Bush during his visit to the Kuwait region last April, accusing Iraq of being behind the attempt.

Yes, more than one U.S. source stated that these miserable claims were no more than a fabricated story similar to that of the infant incubators and other stories told before and after it—a story that was soon proven to be false. By circulating the lie of an attempt on Bush's life and making it the prime reason for its third cowardly aggression against Iraq, the Clinton administration is lying to the American citizens themselves, citing a silly lie. It is telling the world at the same time that it respects no law nor abides by an international charter and that it does whatever it wants whenever it wishes in a logic other than that of the age. It is the logic and law of the jungle. It is the logic of arrogance, which does not underscore America's strength, but its weakness in front of what Zionism wants from it and what its fins, the rulers imposed on Kuwait, want from it. This calls for greater surprise.

By doing so, America appears to be a mere tool of persecution and terrorism hired by others, contrary to the interests of the American citizens before others. It is thus acting like Judas Iscariot, who sold Christ for a few dirhams. The world faithful view the teachings and biography of Christ, peace be upon him, with all due respect and love, but they curse Judas all the time. They will continue to remember Iraq of the great leader Saddam Husayn for its sincere jihad stands. They will continue to curse America's administrations and presidents for their crimes against mankind, laws, and aspirations for peace and stability.

Strike Part of 'Overall Aggression'

JN2706194993 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] It was asserted once again at dawn today that the aggression, which was committed against our Iraqi people three years ago, has not stopped and that the American imperialist killers and their allies are still confronting our heroic people in Iraq and directing their poison, grudge, and treacherous missiles at them.

At dawn today, scores of destructive missiles were launched anew so that they would explode in Baghdad and kill scores of innocent civilians, mostly women and children.

This new aggression is part of the same overall agression that began in January 1991 and includes the ensuing raids that destroyed Iraqi farms and targeted vital scientific and industrial establishments.

These unjustified raids were renewed because Iraq refused to surrender to imperialist will and continued to adhere to its freedom and dignity, taking pride in its Arabism, freedom, and noble pan-Arab goals. Iraq has not surrendered and has not relinquished Jerusalem, Gaza, Nabulus, Lod, or al-Ramlah. On the contrary, it remains steadfast, challenging those calling for surrender, concessions, and abandonment of the homeland and its freedom.

The criminals, who today carried out their new treacherous attack on Iraq and its immortal capital, Baghdad, are mistaken if they think that such strikes will succeed in subjugating the Iraqis, affecting their morale, or weakening their heroic steadfastness in the face of the treacherous onslaught against our Arab homeland.

Our people in Iraq confronted the new treacherous strike with more determination to continue steadfastness, confrontation, and challenge, and declared once again that they would not abandon their principles. They will remain alert to foil any plots to affect their will, freedom, and independence or to force them to abandon their pan-Arab principles that are hostile to aggression, racism, and Zionism and its expansionist ambitions in the Arab homeland.

Failure To Consult Allies Viewed

JN2706211693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1906 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] The U.S. Administration has announced that it will call a meeting of the UN Security Council to inform it of the grounds for its latest aggression on Iraq. The announcement came after the U.S. Administration perpetrated its failed aggression on our peaceful Baghdad. This aggression is now known to all, including the Council members who have been invited just to hear what the United States has to say.

What will the United States say, and what will the Council members tell it? Naturally, the United States is not going to explain to them why they had not been consulted, let alone informed, about its decision to launch the aggression. This American behavior has exposed Washington's arrogance and shown how it underrates even its allies by denying them so much as the appearance of endorsing this action.

Previously, the United States was somewhat anxious to secure the endorsement of its allies to lend collectivism to its decisions or shield them in the cloak of what it calls international legitimacy. This time around, the United States failed to give them advance notice, and is not about to do so in the future.

This is because, as far as the United States is concerned, they are too insignificant to be accorded even the formality of the question they were afforded in the past. They will not dare ask the United States why. The United States and its allies know that their opinion counts for nothing and that they have no choice but to okay whatever the United States decides or does.

Not that it matters much for the United States or its allies if this endorsement comes before or after the event. Indeed they will not dare to ask the United States about anything at all, having acquiesced to shine the shoes of the U.S. soldier and having stooped to even to lower levels. They will sit back and listen politely to what their American lord will have to tell them. Some of them may even go so far as to volunteer a few cheers if the United States so wishes.

They will not ask the reason for the latest aggression, their designated role is to listen and not to raise questions. The United States will reassert to them that it committed this latest outrage because the dynasty imposed on Kuwait told it that Iraq was behind the alleged plot to kill war criminal Bush when he was in Kuwait collecting his reward for his previous acts of aggression.

Nor will they remind their American masters that the U.S. Administration itself dismissed the allegation through the CIA, the Pentagon, and the Congress. These denials are still reverberating both in the United States and elsewhere. They will not remind their American masters of that. If the United States so wishes, they will not even mention it. They can only [words indistinct].

May all of them be cursed. May all those who deviate from truth also be cursed. Whatever the case, we will maintain the defiant spirit that we demonstrated during the Mother of Battles and the subsequent aggression and during this latest clumsy aggression. God is with us, and Baghdad shall remain the gem in the crown of human history.

Sirens Sounded 25 Jun; Military Moves Expected

NC2506144493 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] Sirens were sounded for several minutes in Baghdad and other Iraqi towns today on the excuse of testing recently installed new warning systems. In a short statement, the ostracized regime's television described this operation as mere testing.

It should be recalled that the regime of despot Saddam Husayn resorts to such tests before embarking on military action. This happened before the start of the Iran-Iraq in 1980, when the regime carried out tests on the early warning systems throughout the country.

The statement on the sounding of sirens follows reports that the dictatorial regime has massed huge military forces on the Iraqi-Iranian border. However, observers have stated that the siren testing is due to the dictatorial regime's fear of a new air strike because of its noncompliance with UN resolutions and its vacillation in allowing UN inspectors to install cameras in several military installations.

Letter to UN Protests Sanctions Committee Practices

JN2706152593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Aarbic 1400 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has appealed to the UN secretary general to intervene to halt the unjust practices the Sanctions Committee is exercising against the Iraqi people—practices that conflict with all the human values and considerations.

This came in a letter the foreign minister addressed to UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali on the 94th meeting of the Sanctions Committee. Following is the text of the letter:

Your Excellency Dr. Butrus Ghali, secretary general of the United Nations: I have the honor to inform you of the unjust decisions being peddled by some member states of the Sanctions Committee, which was formed in accordance with Security Council Resolution No. 661 of 1991. The aim of those states is to harm the Iraqi people, in conflict with all norms and the principles of the UN Charter.

The decisions the Sanctions Committee made during its 94th meeting on 27 May 1992 deserve a pause to consider the extent of the injustice done to the Iraqi people by the United States, Britain, France, and Japan, which are working to hamper the dispatch of humanitarian and basic relief aid under various excuses.

After a quick review of the demands the Sanctions Committee rejected at this meeting, we mention the following:

1. The United States objected to 20 demands.
2. The United Kingdom objected to nine demands.
3. France objected to seven demands.
4. Japan objected to one demand.

In addition, many other demands were either suspended or postponed under various pretexts in order to complicate and delay the committee's measures and approvals. The following examples demonstrate indifference to the UN Charter, the peoples' rights, and the international law.

1. The Italian company, Taxim [name as received], refused to export waste water treatment equipment, which is used in preparing pharmaceutical drugs. The British delegate objected because it is used by Iraqi industry.

2. A Turkish company refused to export 20,000 tonnes of Portland cement to Iraqi traders because it used in Iraqi industry.

3. Turkish exporters refused to export varnishes and spare car parts. The French delegate objected because they are used in private cars.

4. A Turkish exporter refused to export detergents to Iraqi traders. The American delegate objected because of the large quantity, although other delegates' said that these detergents are final products and are considered humanitarian and basic materials.

5. Jordanian companies refused to export sewing equipment, nylon thread, and shoe polish to Iraqi traders. The American delegate objected because they are materials used in Iraqi industry.

6. Jordanian companies refused to export spare clock parts to Iraqi traders. The American delegate objected because they are not basic humanitarian materials.

As a result of the positions of a few states, which are biased and arrogant, the Sanctions Committee has become a political tool, continuing to harm the Iraqi people. We appeal to you to intervene to halt these unjust practices the Sanctions Committee is exercising against the Iraqi people, in conflict with all the human values and considerations. I hope that this letter will be distributed as a document of the Security Council. Please accept our best regards.

Writer Urges Opposition To Adopt Dialogue

JN2506155993 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 22 Jun 93 p 6

[Mazhar 'Arif article: "Where To, Kurdistan?"]

[Excerpts] To start, I deem it appropriate to recall historical facts concerning a very important topic: The situation in Kurdistan and the various political forces linked to Iraq only by name. [passage omitted]

Relations among the major movements and parties in Kurdistan continue to be affected by past differences. What on the surface appear as political alliances actually conceal differences. The United States and other Western countries do their best to exploit these differences for their own interests. At the same time, they seek to prevent these differences from escalating into clashes and major battles among parties who are bound by their fear of the future and who are united, if only formally, by their apprehension that U.S. and Western calculations may change for various reasons.

Our Kurdish people and the parties in Kurdistan view Turkey and Iran as two powers suffering from the Kurdish complex. The Kurds there, in the absence of the central authority of the Iraqi state, feel they are between the hammer and the anvil. By continuing to open fire on Kurdish citizens, the Turks and the Iranians take turns in the game of death they play against the Kurds, under the pretext of striking at Turkish Kurdish Workers Party positions in Kurdistan, or those of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran in the area.

With the passage of time, the Kurdish citizens have realized that the United States and the alliance forces are behind all these Iranian and Turkish attacks against them. The claim of the imperialists about security in Iraqi Kurdistan has been exposed. The U.S. claim that it is defending Iraqi Kurds actually means defending the U.S. scheme against all of Iraq, preventing Iraqi Kurds from exercising their national role of liberating Iraqi Kurdistan from foreign hegemony and interference in that beloved part of the homeland.

Does occupation has a future?

For example, can a few years cancel thousands of years of Iraqi citizenship for all Iraqis, irrespective of their ethnic affilations?

Can financial and other kinds of assistance, which were the original lot of the forces on the imperialists bandwagon, compensate the Kurdish citizen for the loss of the resources of the entire homeland?

Can there be trade exchange and economic cooperation between the Kurdish citizen and the United States and the EEC, and can the economy of an Iraqi area merge with that of a major imperialist power?

Then how ironic it is when matters are so depicted by those who are making our Kurdish people suffer under the canopy of the foreign powers' lances.

Judging by news coming Kurdistan, reports published in the yellow papers called newspapers in Kurdistan, and statements by well-known figures circulated secretly in Kurdistan and leaked outside Iraq, one can confidently say the so-called opposition forces are experiencing a deep crisis affecting relations between them, as well as their internal makeup.

We see how certain parties leave each other and then get together in this or that foreign capital, and again leave each other to participate in one conference or to boy

Rabin, Ministers Comment on U.S. Strike on Baghdad

Cabinet Briefed on Attack

TA2706175693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Excerpts] The cabinet today heard a report on the American cruise missile attack. Prime Minister Rabin expressed support for the American action. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin Katzenell recording] The cabinet received a detailed and wide-ranging report on yesterday's American cruise missile strike against the Iraqi intelligence service headquarters in Baghdad. The ministers were told that the missiles were launched from American ships more than 1,000 km from the target. The U.S. decision was welcomed in the cabinet. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin briefed the cabinet on the telephone conversation in which President Clinton informed him that the attack was about to take place. The conversation was very brief because it was on an open line, but Rabin told Clinton Israel supports the American action coming as it did in the wake of the plot to assassinate former President Bush. Immediately after the President's phone call, U.S. Ambassador William Brown arrived with a written message for Rabin with more clarifications on the American action. The feeling in the cabinet was that Israel is not threatened with renewed Iraqi Scud missile attacks. The prognosis is the dispute will be contained in the Iraqi theater of operations. [end recording]

The cabinet also heard a short report on the peace talks in Washington. Most of the ministers shared the government's reservations about the latest American proposals on Jerusalem. Israel is being asked to promise in the declaration of principles to discuss Jerusalem in the second stage of the negotiations and to refrain from what is called unilateral action, which means to accept a building freeze in the Jewish neighborhoods of East Jerusalem. Prime Minister Rabin said the American proposal will be discussed only when Israel receives it in writing.

The Likud is demanding that Prime Minister Rabin this week make a pledge in the Knesset not to give any commitment regarding the status of Jerusalem.

[In a related report on today's cabinet session, Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 27 June carries a recorded passage in which Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer says that the only problem he foresees with the U.S. document "pertains to the issue of Jerusalem. I am almost prepared to bet that we will not have many differences of opinion with the Americans on this issue, at least not with regard to the interim period."

[Further in the report, Police Minister Moshe Shahal is asked whether Israel would be prepared to discuss the question of Jerusalem, even in the context of the permanent arrangement. In a recorded passage, Shahal says: "Definitely not, not even in the context of the permanent arrangement. As far as we are concerned, United Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty is not a negotiable issue."]

Ministers 'Welcome' Strike

TA2706154593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] President Clinton was the one who called Prime Minister Rabin and notified him of the plan to attack Baghdad. At today's cabinet meeting, security elements reported on the strike and assessed that it was a pinpointed event that will not affect Israel. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

[Begin recording] [Gutman] Emerging from today's cabinet session, the ministers did not look worried about last night's developments in Iraq. At the meeting, they heard comforting explanations from security figures: The United States launched a pinpointed strike unrelated to Israel. Here is Minister Mikha Harish as he emerged from the session:

[Harish] All the assessments indicate that the event was limited to the Gulf area, and although every necessary measure has been taken in the sphere of security, it is generally believed that the event will remain limited to Baghdad and the Gulf area.

[Gutman] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the ministers that he had been notified about the U.S. plan to act against the Iraqi intelligence headquarters in Baghdad by U.S. President Bill Clinton himself.

Today's security reports furnished the ministers with what was seen as extensive information concerning the U.S. operation's targets, results, and consequences.

After the meeting, the ministers welcomed the U.S. strike on Iraq. It proves that the world and the United States will not stand idly by as Iraq repeatedly violates international law, Ministers Hayim Ramon and Moshe Shahal said after the cabinet meeting.

[Ramon] The new U.S. regime, that of U.S. President Clinton, has again proved that it will not put up with violations of international law by Iraq, and this approach is definitely welcome as far as Israel is concerned.

[Shahal] The United States, the only remaining superpower, is in fact the world's policeman, safeguarding the legitimacy of actions.

[Gutman] To sum up, today's cabinet meeting was conducted amid a relaxed atmosphere despite—or perhaps thanks to—the U.S. missile attack on Baghdad. [end recording]

Sarid: Attack No Threat to Security

TA2706120793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Report by Shlomo Raz]

[Excerpt] The cabinet session ended a few minutes ago, and some of the ministers have already left. The meeting dealt with several issues. The ministers received a report on the U.S. military action on Iraq and the paper the Americans want to present in the peace talks, as well as a bill banning Palestinian workers from the territories from staying overnight in Israel and putting the onus on the employers.

[Begin recording] [Raz] Environment Minister Yosi Sarid, should we be worried in the wake of the U.S. missile attack on Iraq, after hearing the cabinet report?

[Sarid] No, I do not think that there is room for any concern. It was an American action perpetrated against Iraq. Israel has nothing to do with what happened there either directly or indirectly, therefore I think we can remain calm. I believe that not a single hair on our heads will be harmed.

[Raz] Can we also be calm about the Iranian issue?

[Sarid] The Iranian issue is more complex, and we have a right to show skepticism. I can only express a personal opinion and say that the State of Israel has to make it absolutely clear that anybody who assists Iran, either directly or indirectly, to arm itself with nuclear or other nonconventional weapons is well advised to beware.

[Raz] Minister Sarid, the Americans are apparently about to present their version of a document of principles. Israel does not really accept the revised version.

[Sarid] I do not think that is precise. The document has still not been presented and therefore we cannot say that there has been any Israeli reaction to it. According to what we know, the paper will be presented sometime this week. In today's cabinet meeting I suggested that ministers should not be forced to support a position they were not partners to since it involves one of the most important decisions the government will have to make. The ministers' backing, which is likely to be forthcoming, depends on their participation in the consultations in deciding what attitude to take towards the American document.

[Raz] Thank you, Minister Sarid. Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, before we dwell on the Iraqi issue, do you also think that a detailed debate has to take place in the cabinet on the American document? I will just remind ourselves that Israel is unprepared to deal with Jerusalem's future, especially at this stage, and is also not prepared to accept any written version of the autonomy's borders or area of jurisdiction.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I assume that when the American paper is presented the prime minister will submit it for some sort of cabinet debate.

[Raz] Will that happen this week?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I do not know, it depends on when the American document arrives. Anyway, the American document is definitely a very important document because it is meant to bridge two quite opposing positions—that of the Palestinians and the Israelis. I believe that the main issue will be Jerusalem. I am prepared to bet that we will not have many differences on that issue with the Americans, at least not in the interim period. I hope the Americans will try to get involved in the issue of authorities to be granted to the Palestinian body because I believe the differences over that are not great.

[Raz] Minister Ben-Eli'ezer, are we not burying our heads in the sand when we convince ourselves and the entire world that we are not facing any danger from Iraq?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] No, I do not think so. I think that the U.S. attack on Iraq is first of all interesting on its own because it was perpetrated over 1,000 miles from U.S. vessels and inland, that is, outside the battle arena, and was done with such precision. Second, it is something the Americans weighed carefully and also took into consideration the repercussions. If the Americans reached a point where—although the entire world points the finger at Iran as the chief enemy—and it nevertheless struck at Iraq, it is a sign that Washington reached the conclusion that it has had enough. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Ben-Eli'ezer: U.S. Acted Correctly

TA2706061693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Telephone interview with Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer by Ya'el Dan on 27 June—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-Eli'ezer] I believe we have to view the U.S. attack against Iraq within an extended time frame. The Americans had warned Iraq about its long series of violations in terms of commitments to the Security Council. The United States, for its own strategic considerations—and I believe it does have strategic considerations in the Middle East—decided to employ its military might after all else failed. The United States is a sovereign state, and I assume that it took everything into consideration before taking action. I think it acted correctly.

[Dan] This is the type of event that we know when it starts, but the question is whether we know how it will end.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I believe that the Americans took everything into account, especially since it was not an easy decision to make, in view of the reports in recent months about Iran's military buildup. The decision to strike at Iraq must therefore have been weighed many, many times before it was finally made. I assume that their intelligence capability enabled them to weigh the considerations of further weakening Iraq against Iran and to reach the conclusion that it pays, at least in the short run.

[Dan] Is there room for any concern that it might develop and perhaps reach us?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I believe that the United States took into account Iraq's ability to react. We have been following what is happening there. It is no longer the same Iraq which managed to regain its strength after the heavy blow it received [in the Gulf war]. I assume that even if there will be a response it will be limited.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 27 June in a live telephone interview with Economy and Planning Minister Shim'on Shetrit, Me'ir Einstein asks him for his reaction to the U.S. bombing. Shetrit replies: "Saddam Husayn's attempt to harm George Bush was a grave violation of a tacit agreement that heads of government are not harmed. I believe that President Clinton's response shows U.S. determination to continue the ongoing struggle against terrorist states, which are at present mainly Iraq and Iran. I believe it is a good sign that President Clinton, who recently suffered a drop in popularity in the United States, acted forcefully to defend a very important principle, that terrorist states must not harm heads of states."]

Chief of Staff: No Need for Concern

TA2706195093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] In the wake of the U.S. strike on Baghdad, Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq stated this evening that in his opinion there is no reason for concern in Israel and that chances are low of an Iraqi retaliation against its neighboring countries.

Our Haifa correspondent Qobi Mandel reports that in a lecture at Kibbutz Yagur, Lt. Gen. Baraq said that Iraq is a defeated country and that the events of the past 24 hours illustrate that fact. The U.S. operation was a localized attack on an adequate target for an adequate reason, the chief of staff said.

Commentary: Attack To Have Positive Effect on Talks

TA2806102693 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Jun 93 p 5

[Commentary by Ron Ben-Yishay: "Clinton Flexes His Muscles"]

[Text] Although the official report linking Saddam Husayn and Iraqi intelligence with the attempt to assassinate George Bush was placed on Bill Clinton's desk last Thursday [24 June], the President and his aides already knew the facts two weeks prior to that. So did the reporters who widely published it. Clinton, however, hesitated as usual. Apparently, Clinton was finally convinced to take forceful action against Iraq by the fear that the United States might be perceived in the world, and mainly in the Middle East, as a paper tiger. Clinton's inability to consolidate a Western front to deal with Bosnia, the deadlocked Arab-Israeli peace process, the mess in Somalia, and the economic conflict with Japan has created the impression—in the United States and elsewhere—that the administration lacks the ability to act and influence the international arena and contributed to Clinton's weakening political stand at home.

The final push to the presidential decision to launch the missile strike that hit Baghdad on 26 June was given by the uncovering of the network of Muslim fanatics that planned a series of spectacular terror attacks in New York. This, according to reliable sources in the U.S. Administration, made it clear to Clinton that the lack of a U.S. reaction is feeding the motivation of violent Muslim organizations.

At the same time, the cruise missiles also carried warning messages to four clearly defined addresses:

—To Saddam Husayn: Don't you dare attack the Kurds and the Shiites, and stop harassing the UN inspectors.

—To the Iraqi people: You will go on suffering as long as Saddam is in power.

—To Iran: Continued support for Islamic terror might turn you into a target for future acts of retaliation.

—To Bosnia and the U.S. allies in the Middle East: The United States will not stand idly by, allowing subversive international organizations to operate freely.

It is reasonable to assume that the U.S. missile strike will indeed bolster Clinton's standing at home and the United States' international status. This could also have a positive effect on the Middle East peace process. As for Israel, it is not hard to see that the strengthening status of the current U.S. Administration almost automatically increases Israel's deterrence and Jerusalem's political haggling abilities.

Jerusalem Reportedly Rejects Proposal's Main Points

TA2706063293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Studio talk between anchorman Me'ir Einstein and political correspondent Shlomo Raz, and Razi Barqay in Washington—live]

[Text] [Einstein] While President Clinton is launching missiles at Iraq, his secretary of state is busy drafting a U.S. proposal for an Israeli-Palestinian joint declaration of principles to serve as a compromise between the positions the sides presented in the 10th round of talks which started two weeks ago. Our Washington correspondent Razi Barqay has details of the proposal:

[Barqay] The U.S. document in its entirety has not yet been officially presented to the sides. It will be placed on the table on Monday [28 June]. But over the weekend Dennis Ross discussed with the heads of the Israeli delegation what they think of the draft. The U.S. version contains several clauses that will force Jerusalem to make decisions, mainly on Jerusalem. The United States accepts in principle the Israeli stand that Jerusalem is not part of the autonomy. That is the pill the Palestinians will have to swallow. The bitter pill Israel will have to swallow is that Jerusalem's future will be decided in the discussions on the permanent arrangement. In other words, the United States does not accept as a fait accompli the annexation of East Jerusalem and is demanding that the issue be opened for negotiations when the time comes. The United States is also demanding that during the interim period, Israel avoids taking unilateral actions in Jerusalem and the settlements which would close options for the permanent arrangement. Secretary of State Christopher has approved the document, Jerusalem and Tunis will decide what happens to it. Itamar Rabinovich and Elyaqim Rubinstein do not have a mandate to sign it, and neither does Faysal al-Husayni. It is therefore reasonable to assume that this round, like its predecessors, will end in five days without a signed agreement, which will force Dennis Ross, and perhaps Christopher himself, to fly to the region and apply pressure.

[Einstein] Shlomo Raz, how does Jerusalem respond to that possible compromise for the document of principles?

[Raz] In addition to rejecting any mention of the Jerusalem issue at this stage, Israel also opposes any mention of the geographic scope of the autonomy, that is, its area of the autonomy's jurisdiction. We should recall that in the earlier rounds of talks the document leaned closer to Israel's position and that the amended version is less appealing to Israel. Secretary Christopher talked with Prime Minister Rabin on the telephone on Friday on the document of principles. Israel rejects the above two points, which are perhaps the main obstacles to finalizing a document of principles at this stage in the peace talks. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 27 June in a report by Ya'aqov Balsenboim quotes Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin as reiterating the Israeli position on Jerusalem in a speech he made to a political rally at Ganne Tiqva on 26 June. "Jerusalem will remain under Israeli sovereignty and the eternal capital of the State of Israel," Balsenboim quotes Rabin as saying.]

Rabin on U.S. Position Paper

TA2706165393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin believes the Americans will within the next few days submit a position paper regarding the points in dispute between Israel and the Palestinians. The prime minister told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that there is an essential difference between the two sides signing a joint document of principles and a paper that represents a U.S. position. The prime minister estimates that the U.S. document will not be issued on behalf of President Clinton but will apparently bear the signature of Secretary of State Christopher. The prime minister believes the approach contained in the U.S. paper will be close to the Israeli positions.

Rabin Says Jerusalem To Remain United Capital

TA2806104693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 28 Jun 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says Jerusalem will not be included in the autonomy and Israel is striving for a peace treaty with Syria in which it will not give up all the land, as it did in the peace with Egypt. He was speaking to the Jewish Agency Board of Governors. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] The prime minister was disappointed because an agreement had not been achieved yet with the Palestinians, but he warned them that Israel has patience and will not give up its vital interests—for example, the dispute over Jerusalem:

[Rabin] Jerusalem will remain as it is, united under Israeli sovereignty and our capital forever, and therefore it will not be included in the interim self-government arrangement for the Palestinians. It's part of Israel. It is so; it will remain so.

[Katzenell] In the negotiations with Syria, Rabin said Israel is striving for a peace in which it will not repeat the painful experience of the peace with Egypt, when it gave up all the territory and uprooted all the settlements. In fact, he was against returning to the pre Six-Day War borders:

[Rabin] I made, a long time ago, an oath that I will be the last chief of staff of the armed forces of Israel that would have to defend Israel from the lines that existed prior to the Six-Day War. This will not happen.

[Katzenell] On the other hand, Rabin said, if anybody imagines that after the Egyptian precedent, peace can be achieved with Syria without giving up any land, I just do not understand him.

Rabin was categorically opposed to annexing Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. With 2 million Arab citizens, it would no longer be a Jewish state, he said, and to annex them without granting them citizenship was also unacceptable. I am against apartheid, the prime minister said. Therefore, Israel was ready for territorial compromise, and he called on the Arabs to agree to compromises also. [end recording]

Cypriot Plans To Release 'Murderers' Protested

TA2706074293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Israel has officially protested to Cyprus about their intention to release from prison three Fatah terrorists who murdered three Israeli seamen eight years ago. According to information that has reached Israel, the Cypriot attorney general will call on the president in several weeks to release the murderers.

South Africa Said Satisfied by Smuggling Issue Outcome

TA2506065993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] The South African ambassador to Israel, Malcolm Ferguson, yesterday met with Foreign Ministry officials in Jerusalem over the allegations of currency smuggling by staff members of the Israeli Embassy in Pretoria. Ambassador Ferguson said afterwards South African authorities are entirely satisfied that the issue is being dealt with properly by Israeli officials in Jerusalem and Pretoria. The ambassador also rejected suggestions the alleged smuggling activities are part of a widely organized conspiracy between the Israeli Embassy and members of the South African Jewish community.

Foreign Ministry Official To Attend OAU Conference

TA2706091093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Ya'aqov Qeynan, head of the Africa desk in the Foreign Ministry, will participate in the conference of Organization of African Unity [OAU] in Cairo. Israel's ambassador in Cairo has also been invited to participate in the conference. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that it is the first time that an Israeli representative will participate in the OAU conference. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres sent cables to the foreign ministers of several African states participating in the conference.

First Arab Ambassador To Be Appointed by Summer 1994

TA2506184793 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 25 Jun 93 p 5

[Report by Amnon Barzilay]

[Excerpt] Israel's first Arab ambassador will be Hajj Yihya Yosef, deputy president of the Tel Aviv District Court.

His nomination was decided recently, after the judge met for a get-acquainted talk with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and his deputy Yosi Beilin, who heads the Foreign Ministry's diplomatic appointments committee. Yosef will be appointed ambassador by next summer, either to a Scandinavian country or to Greece. [passage omitted]

[A related report by Pe'erli Shahar on page 1 of Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 25 June notes that Israel's first Arab ambassador "will be appointed to one of the Muslim republics of the CIS."]

Rabin Reviews Government's First Year Achievements

TA2706161293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1303 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at a ceremony preceding the presentation of a report to the president on the government's achievements in its first year in office, within a special program titled "Mid-Term Report," at Rabin's residence in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] Cabinet ministers, directors general of the government ministries, members of the Daily Newspapers Editors Committee, distinguished guests: We are not here to boast or to beat our own drum. We are not here to pat ourselves on the back. This is a get-together of some of the people who do the work to mark the first anniversary of the establishment of this government, which looks back in satisfaction and looks ahead with great hope.

Our meeting here is one means of communicating with the public, both those who elected us and those who voted for other parties. In the final analysis, we are all Israel. We feel the need and obligation to report to the public about what we have done and what we have not yet done. We consider this report a natural necessity and a custom that every government should adopt every year. It is not meant to irritate anybody or to show off. It is a report that once again details big, gray, and everyday issues, some of which go unnoticed in our day-to-day life. This is the first time that a government renders accounts to the public long before elections, long before we are told: Where have you been until now? Why do you remember us only when elections come?

However, first and foremost, this is an opportunity to say thanks as we continue the hard work around the clock in an effort to speed things up and attain achievements. Out of a wish to build and work, we neglect many people. We fail to raise our head, stop for a minute, look around, and say: Thanks, thanks to the many people. But first of all, my personal thanks to the cabinet ministers and the ministers' thanks to their deputies, directors general, and all those without whom the work could not be done. Thanks to all the government workers who share the workload with us. Thanks to the families, the wives and husbands, the sons and daughters, whose encouragement and support enables us to dedicate ourselves to work.

Ladies and gentlemen, a year ago the people of Israel chose a new hope, chose faith in the justness of another way of doing things, chose security and peace. We asked, and received, the confidence of the people for a new way, different from the one that existed in the previous 15 years. We gave an IOU to hundreds of thousands of voters, and we have been repaying it for a year. This is only the beginning. We have a long way ahead of us. We will see success, as well as failure and difficulties. However, our objective is defined and is clear to us: a national order of priorities different from the one that existed up until now, security and peace.

Fellow ministers, ladies, and gentlemen, for 45 years we have been dreaming of peace. We want it. We are prepared to pay a price, but not any price. In the last year we have proven to ourselves, to the nations of the world, and to the Arab countries that we are sincere, that we are sincere and serious in our struggle for peace, that what we have in mind is not futile deliberations or aimless foot-dragging in the search for peace. We took important steps to allay tension and to build confidence. We compromised. Personally, I may have made a mistake when I allotted too short a time to the deliberations and aroused too many expectations. However, if Damascus, Amman, Beirut, and the Palestinian camp took this to mean that Israel is running against time, that we are rushing toward any solution in order to secure an achievement—there can be no greater mistake than that. In order to spare our children from danger, to instill security in the people of Israel, we have, and we will continue to have, all the time in the world.

We believe we have inspired a new hope. We have instilled a new wind in the sails of peace. We have filled the process with content by including matters of substance. All the initiatives in all the tracks of the negotiations came from us. We offered the Palestinians possibilities for self-government, including handing many spheres of action over to them. We told the Syrians we are prepared to implement the possibility of a withdrawal on the Golan Heights. We proposed what we did after a coolheaded look into the matter. We took all possibilities into account, security first and foremost. We stated time and again that we would make concessions for the sake of peace, but that we would not make concessions where our security is concerned. We said that, and we kept our promise. The State of Israel is the strongest country in the Middle East from the military point of view. The personal security of Israel's citizens has increased in the wake of the closure. We have scored successes in the war against terror.

Unfortunately, and this is the truth even if it is not an easy one, the response we have had so far from the Arab parties to the negotiations has not been sufficient. Some of the Arabs still cling to their old slogans, are still at each other's throats, and continue to disagree, and no breakthrough has yet been made between us and them. As the saying goes, there are no desperate situations but only people who despair of the situation. We have not despaired, and we will continue to tread this path because there is no other.

The train traveling to peace stopped at many stations this year, which refutes the cliche that the whole world is against us. The United States has improved its relations with us, which have reverted to a normal course of proximity and candid and open dialogue. President Bush's administration approved $10 billion in guarantees for five years. President Clinton's administration opened its heart and arms to us and continues the U.S. tradition of support for the State of Israel. In Europe, the dialogue with the EC has deepened and improved. We have been inundated with visits by heads of state, and we have reciprocated with friendship and economic and other relations. No longer are we an isolated nation.

We knew very well, and we know it better today, that economic and social issues will be a key and important test for the government. We have changed the situation and determined a new national order of priorities. We have now taken the first steps. For the first time in years the Israeli Government gave special emphasis to physical infrastructure: We doubled the budget for road infrastructure. We decided on a major revolution in education. We set out to fight unemployment. We added thousands upon thousands of new jobs. We diverted our attention to social welfare. In this context, we reinstituted allowances to families with one and two children, thus benefiting 600,000 children. We determined new areas of national priority. We reduced the government's involvement in the economy, but not enough yet. We greatly increased the budgets to the Arab sectors.

Fellow ministers, distinguished audience: This is only the beginning. We have another three years and at least three similar reports ahead of us. We are aware of the immense tasks we have taken upon ourselves: the fate of a nation, the possibilities inherent in peace, and the dangers laying at our doorstep. We are aware of the enormous responsibility and continue to do our work enthusiastically.

I will end with a brief excerpt from a poem by Natan Alterman: Trees will quiver above us/will light in the sunset/we knew them when they sprouted/and now their tops reach the sky.

Poll Reports Dissatisfaction With Government

TA2506185093 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 Jun 93 p 3

[Report on public opinion poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute, directed by Dr. Mina Tzemah]

[Excerpt] On the eve of the release of the government's report of its achievements, YEDI'OT AHARONOT gauged public opinion on the issue. The poll was conducted this week, which marks the first anniversary of the change in governments. The respondents were asked to assess the government's achievements in various spheres, as detailed in the table below. (The responses are quoted in percentage points.)

	Very good	Good	Not so good	Not good	Did not reply
The peace process	7	34	32	27	—
Internal security	11	41	26	22	—
Handling of unemployment	6	30	31	33	—
Health services	5	32	30	31	2
Foreign relations	15	52	20	9	4
Education	6	42	29	23	—
Relations among ministers	3	14	23	58	2
Handling of capital market	3	31	29	22	15
Overall rating	4	33	39	24	—

The poll was conducted on 500 respondents, who constitute a representative sample of the adult Jewish population of Israel, excluding kibbutzim. [passage omitted]

Beilin Proposes Pre-Accord Elections, Referendum

TA2706201693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin proposes to bring the Knesset elections forward or, alternatively, to hold a referendum before the peace agreements are signed so that these are not approved with a small majority.

Speaking at Labor's branch in Ra'anana, Foreign Minister Beilin said the talks with the Palestinians are stuck because they fear that if the Likud were to rise to power it would not implement the agreement on the permanent arrangement. According to him, Labor is anxious about formulating a permanent arrangement before examining an interim arrangement.

Our correspondent Yafa Glick reports that referring to the negotiations with the Syrians, Beilin said that none of the sides is prepared to reveal all its cards regarding the extent of the withdrawal and the substance of peace. According to him, the talks will make headway if the level of the negotiators is raised and if the Americans become more involved, similar to their involvement in the Camp David negotiations.

Labor MK's Form Faction To Counterweight Ministers

TA2406125593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Over the past few months, a new ideological faction has been forming within the Labor party. The group is headed by Knesset members [MK's] Ori Or and Gedalya Gal, respectively the chairmen of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, and its Finance Committee. The group, made up of ten members, was established as a counterweight to the sweeping powers of the Labor ministers. Our correspondent Tziyon Nanus is here with more details.

[Begin recording] [Nanus] The Labor party's new ideological faction was unveiled this week, one year after the political turnabout. For some time now, MK's Eli Goldschmidt, Dalya Itzik, Masha Lubelsky, Rafi Elul, Yosef Vanunu, Yosi Katz, and Gid'on Sagi, have been hovering around MK's Ori Or, the chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and Gedalya Gal, the chairman of the Knesset's Finance Minister. It all began with their sense of frustration and inability to influence the government's actions although they also belong to the government party. The new group will serve as a counterweight to the Labor ministers, and, no less importantly, to the dovish Kefar Hayaroq circle.

With regard to the political aspect, the members of the new faction stress that their viewpoints were closer to what they described as mainstream Labor party positions. MK Ori Or explained, however, that the new group planned to stress social issues. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Settlers Said Angered by Decision on Civil Guard

TA2706114893 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Jun 93 p A3

[Report by army affairs correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] Settlers in the West Bank were highly angered by a letter sent by Noah Kinarti, the prime minister's adviser on settlement affairs, in which he stipulated that there was no intention to set up civil guard outposts in the Jewish settlements.

Local council officials, settler leaders, and even sources at the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Central Command expressed surprise at the letter since the establishment of two Civil Guard outposts, in Ari'el and Ma'ale Adumim, had already been agreed upon last year.

The sources asserted that several months ago, the former Central Command commander, Major General Dani Yatom, now Prime Minister Rabin's military secretary, even told the High Court of Justice that all the arrangements and preparations for the establishment of the Civil Guard had already been made.

In a letter addressed to Yosi Koler, the official in charge of security in West Bank settlements, Kinarti writes: "I was requested to furnish a reply to your letter to the director general of the Prime Minister's Office with regard to the possibility of establishing a Civil Guard in Judaea and Samaria. As is well known, various steps were taken in the past toward forming a Civil Guard, including the publication of a general directive enabling its establishment. However, the matter was reexamined several months ago, with the conclusion that IDF and police activity, in conjunction with the guard duties performed within the settlements themselves and the regional defense network, reduce the need for a Civil Guard. Therefore, in light of the above, its establishment is no longer on the agenda."

In response to the missive, Knesset Member Ron Nahman, who is the head of the Ari'el local council, sent a letter to Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister and defense minister. [passage omitted]

Settlement leaders are demanding that the defense minister order the immediate establishment of the Civil Guard. They also demand to know who was responsible for the decision not to set up a Civil Guard and who reviewed the matter.

Yesterday, Mr. Nahman called the matter an act of fraud and deception by the Defense Ministry. He asserted that Police Minister Moshe Shahal, who had recently announced the upcoming establishment of the Civil Guard, was also surprised by the letter.

Nahman stressed that he would not the matter pass, and that he would soon "work up a scandal at the Defense Ministry."

A police source yesterday said: "We knew that a Civil Guard was being established in the territories and we allocated policemen for this matter."

Ban Lifted for Territories Residents Over 50

TA2506185793 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] The responsible authorities have announced that in accordance with the decision of Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, as of 27 June residents of the territories—men and women—50 years of age and over will be allowed to enter Israel without special permits. The exception are persons who have been banned from entering Israel for security reasons. Our correspondent Hasan Abu-Zayid reports that permission to enter Israel does not allow the territories residents to work here. Those wishing to work must obtain permits from employment offices in accordance with the regulations adopted since the imposition of the security cordon on the territories.

Fence To Be Built Around Occupied Territories

NC2406194793 Paris AFP in English 1855 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] Jerusalem, June 24 (AFP)—Israel announced Thursday [24 June] it will build a fence around its occupied territories which the army closed in March to curb Palestinian attacks on Israelis.

The defense and finance ministries have allocated 13 million dollars to build the barrier and construct paths for security patrols around the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Deputy Defense Minister Motta Gur said.

Metal fences will also be built around Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, as well as at communities near the Israeli-Lebanese borders, he said.

Gur did not say when work would begin.

Israel seized the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Three Arab Youths Wounded by IDF Gunfire in Janin

TA2606121393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Text] Three Arab youths were wounded by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire in Janin this afternoon. Two of the youths sustained serious wounds, and the third was slightly wounded. The three were treated on the spot and later evacuated by military ambulance to a hospital. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that an IDF force operating in the city spotted a group of youths throwing stones and bottles at Israeli vehicles. The soldiers opened fire and wounded the three. Four other youths were detained for interrogation.

'Suspected Collaborators' Murdered in Gaza

TA2606200393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Text] Over the weekend, two residents of the Gaza Strip were murdered, apparently by Fatah, as suspected collaborators with the authorities. Ahmad 'Isa, 30, was kidnapped from his home in the al-Burayj refugee camp. His body was found today with bullet wounds in it. Residents of the refugee camp say that masked men also murdered Nawwal 'Abd-al-Rasul, also 30. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that according to slogans painted on walls in the refugee camp, Fatah members are responsible for the two murders.

'Terrorist' Killed; IDF Soldier Wounded in Clashes

TA2706101793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was wounded this morning in a clash with terrorists in the

Khan Yunus area. Some 30 minutes later, another terrorist tried to attack IDF soldiers at a roadblock in the Qatif Bloc erected because of the earlier attack. The terrorist was shot dead. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports:

At about 0530 [0230 GMT] this morning, terrorists attacked an IDF patrol driving along the coastal road in the Khan Yunus area. The terrorists—there were apparently three—ambushed the patrol near a rubbish dump in the Qatifa area and shot at the patrol with F-16 rifles and a kalashnikov. One of the soldiers was wounded in the chest and the hand and was evacuated by helicopter to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba. The soldiers in the patrol returned fire at the terrorists, but they managed to flee. Large forces were rushed to the site. The IDF put up roadblocks along the traffic axes, and a manhunt for the terrorists began.

At about 0600 [0300 GMT] a white Subaru car arrived at one of the roadblocks erected at the Ganey Tal junction in the Qatif Bloc. A terrorist in the vehicle pulled out a revolver and tried to attack the soldiers manning the roadblock. The soldiers opened fire with a submachine gun and rifles, and killed the terrorist on the spot. The man was apparently Jamal Sami Alwadi, aged about 27. Alwadi has been on the wanted list for the past two years for belonging to the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam wing of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. He is also suspected of participating in the attack earlier this year in Ganey Tal in which a reserves soldier and a Bedouin tracker were killed.

Gazans reported that 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam leaflets and a knife with the word Hamas written on it were found at the site of the incident.

Masked Men Kill Former Mayor of West Bank Village

TA2806074493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 28 Jun 93

[Text] Masked men murdered the former mayor of Bayt Fajjar, near Bethlehem, last night. Local residents reported that the masked men shot the man in his home. He was hit in the stomach and was taken to a hospital in Bethlehem, where he died of his wounds.

Katyushas Land in Galilee; 5 Reported Wounded

TA2806042093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 28 Jun 93

[Text] Several Katyusha rockets were fired early this morning toward the Galilee Panhandle. Five residents, among them one girl, were slightly wounded, and extensive damage was caused to property. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the Katyushas landed near a building and several apartments were damaged. Electricity lines were also torn. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] directed artillery fire at the area in Lebanon from which the Katyushas were fired.

IDF Commander Comments

TA2806064093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 28 Jun 93

[Text] Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Northern Command, thinks there is no connection between the Katyusha attack on the Galilee Panhandle this morning and yesterday's IDF helicopter attack near Zawtar al-Sharqiyah. Maj. Gen. Mordekhay toured the Galilee Panhandle this morning and spoke with families who were hit. Six residents, including one girl, were slightly wounded, and extensive damage was caused to apartments.

Maj. Gen. Mordekhay told our correspondent Yo'av Aviv that even though there have been several Katyusha attacks recently, this does not constitute a new stage or a war of attrition.

Sources in Lebanon told our correspondent that the Katyushas were fired from the region of Qabrikha, in the central sector. They also said that yesterday, prior to the IDF helicopter attack in the area of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, a meeting of Hizballah members was held at that site. The meeting adjourned before the attack started.

Security sources in Tyre said that the terrorists fired at least five Katyusha rockets at Qiryat Shemona. They claim that one of the rockets hit the Lebanese village of Marun al-Ra's. The sources added that the Katyusha attack was a retaliation for yesterday's Israeli helicopter raid.

Amman Radio Reports U.S. Missile Attack on Baghdad

JN2706052293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] General Colin Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, has said that the U.S. forces fired 23 Tomahawk missiles at the Iraqi intelligence headquarters in Baghdad at dawn today. He pointed out that the missiles were fired from two U.S. Navy warships.

For his part, a spokesman for the Iraqi Ministry of Culture and Information this morning said the U.S. missile attack targeted a residential area in Baghdad, killing or wounding many people. He added that a new statement on this attack will be made later.

Western diplomats in New York have said that the UN Security Council will meet today at the request of the United States to explain the U.S. position on the attack against Iraq. The United States described the attack as a reply to the attempt on the life of former U.S. President George Bush when he was on a visit to Kuwait in April.

Further on Attack

JN2706054493 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0430 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Iraq said last night residential quarters were hit in the U.S. missile attack on Baghdad, and many civilians were killed. A spokesman for Iraq's Ministry of Information said that the residential areas in downtown Baghdad were hit by the U.S. missiles. The spokesman added that the attack caused many civilian casualties. He said another statement would soon follow. It was the first Iraqi reaction to the attack, which American officials said was carried out in retaliation for alleged Iraqi involvement in a plot to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush. The statement, handed to foreign reporters in Baghdad, gave no further details. Ministry officials said that they were taking reporters to the areas hit shortly.

A U.S. cruise missile attack on intelligence headquarters in Baghdad appeared to have caught Iraq unawares early today, and there was no early indication of the damage caused by the 23 missiles launched from U.S. ships. Sirens in Baghdad wailed at about 0200 local time, 2000 [as heard] GMT. Minutes later there were loud explosions hitting an area which seemed outside the center of the capital. Antiaircraft fire was heard. Baghdad radio continued normal programs but switched to the national anthem almost two hours later. The extent of damage inflicted by the cruise attack was not yet known.

U.S. President Bill Clinton said in a television address that U.S. naval forces launched a cruise missile attack on Iraq's intelligence center last night in retaliation for what he called a cowardly plot to assassinate former President George Bush.

Britain said today that the attack by the United States against targets in Iraq was entirely justified. A statement from Prime Minister John Major's office said Britain believed that state terrorism must be met with an unambigious response, and must be deterred by all proper and legitimate means. The statement said that they regard the American response as entirely justified. Major was informed of the U.S. intention to strike against Iraq last night and gave U.S. President Bill Clinton his full support.

Britain said that the U.S. Government had clear evidence of the involvement of the Iraqi intelligence services in the assassination attempt on former President George Bush.

Hasan Offers Condolences to Victims of U.S. Attack

JN2706140293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 Jun 93

["Text" of speech by Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, at a graduation ceremony for the military class of the Mu'tah University in Mu'tah, southern Jordan, on 27 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Peace and blessings be on his prophet, Muhammad, and all the members of his household and companions. Esteemed gathering. It pleases me at the beginning of this ceremony to graduate the sixth class of the military wing of the Mu'tah University, the Zayd Ibn-Harithah class, to convey greetings and congratulations from His Majesty King Husayn, may God preserve him, to each one of you. [passage omitted]

Respected audience, this morning you heard the news of the missile attack on Baghdad in reaction, according to a security source, to an attempt to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush two months ago. This attack led to the killing of a number of innocent people. It is a source of pain and sadness to hear of violence that leads to further hatred and inflicts more human and material losses. This would not have happened had the Arab position been more steadfast and had the principle of Shura [consultation] been its basis. This principle leads people to better life, preserving right and warding off oppression and aggression. You are aware of Jordan's firm stands [applause]. We view the successive events in our region in light of these stands. We believe in the language of rational, humanitarian dialogue as a means of solving disputes, and believe in ending disputes on the basis of UN principles, which stipulate nonviolence.

From this rostrum, and in the name of Jordan—king, government, and people—I extend heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, and I beseech Almighty God to alleviate their pain and grant them patience and solace.

On this occasion, I express my thanks and appreciation to the president of this university, its deans and professors, the commanders of the military and police colleges, the members of the military wing, and the administrative departments in this university on their endeavors and generous efforts. [passage omitted]

Political Parties Condemn U.S. Attack, 'Crusade'

JN2806064693 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Jun 93 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff report Ayman al-Safadi]

[Excerpts] Amman—Jordan Sunday expressed "sorrow and sadness" over the U.S. missile attack on Baghdad in which Iraq says eight civilians were killed and 12 others injured.

"The violence can only lead to further hatred and more human and material losses," His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the Regent said. [passage omitted]

The attack, which was supported by America's western allies in the coalition that drove Iraq from Kuwait in 1991, drew strong condemnation from various political parties in Jordan.

"This (the attack) is a part of the American crusade against the Arab and Muslim nations. America is fabricating excuses to humiliate any Arab that stands up to it," Ibrahim Khuraysat, spokesman of the Muslim Brotherhood bloc at the Lower House of Parliament, told the Jordan Times Sunday.

President of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) Ishaq al-Fahran rejected the American justification for the attack saying that military action should not have been taken before resorting to dialogue.

"Who decides," he asked, "that the American allegations are true. Which judicial authority said they were true?"

Condemning the attack as unjustifiable, Dr al-Farhan said the U.S. "aggression gives a bad name to the new world order and shows bad implemention of (its premises)."

"The American's aggression on... Baghdad reflects the determination of the American administration to humiliate and torture our people in Iraq," the centrist al-'Ahd party said.

The party said in a statement the cruise missile blitz on Iraq confirms that the American political decision is hostage to pressure groups, lobbies and oil companies.

Urging an Arab and international effort to end what it called the torture of "our people in Iraq," the party said the American justifications for Sunday's attack "were ridiculous."

"The U.S. is making excuses to attack the Arabs. Any one with a sense of humanity would not accept that a powerless people be attacked in this way," said Mr. Khuraysat.

"Once again, the United States, through its new administration, proves its animosity towards Arabs and Muslims," the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) said in a statement faxed to the Jordan Times.

The@American bombardment of Iraqi installations, said the statement, "is another form of piracy and terrorism."

No Jordanian Casualties in U.S. Attack on Baghdad

JN2706105593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Jordanian Ambassador in Baghdad Nasuh al-Majali today notified the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY that all Jordanian nationals in Baghdad, in particular, and Iraq, in general, are well. He said that none of the Jordanian nationals in the Iraqi capital was hurt as a result of the U.S. missile attack last night.

Clinton Bombs Iraq in Bid To Boost 'Image' at Home

JN2806062293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Jun 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Pretext Worse Than Guilt"]

[Text] President Bill Clinton campaigned for the White House with a promise of change: The American economy would improve, Americans would have more jobs, better standards of living, a new American era of wealth and prosperity. But all these remained promises and the popularity of the "incredible shrinking president" hit alarming lows. There is little he can do to implement his domestic agenda, so the embattled Clinton decides to bomb Iraq in a bid to boost his image at home.

The reason behind Sunday's American missile attack on Iraq cannot possibly be Iraq's alleged plot to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush. To start with, no American court has ruled that Baghdad was guilty of masterminding the "plot" against Bush. And even if U.S. jurisprudence or political gurus allow that kind of determination to stand, America cannot be the judge and the executioner at the same time.

The second point that makes the attack against Iraq unjustifiable is, or should be, closely related to the trial of the suspects in the World Trade Centre bombing. U.S. officials often speak about connections between the alleged bombers and Iran. Why has Washington not retaliated against that state already?

With this in mind, it is unfortunate that a new and open-minded president, like Clinton, should allow himself to be cornered by domestic challenges and surrender his policy-making process on Iraq to hard-line advisors who prefer guns and the use of force to a peaceful, definitely more productive approach.

President Clinton seems to have failed to understand what his predecessor also would not acknowledge: Violence is not going to solve the problem in the Arab Gulf.

There were two major victims to Sunday's attack: The Iraqi people and America's credibility in the region. Neither could afford to suffer more.

The Iraqi people have for long been subjected to consequences of a policy on which they have no say. They did not participate in planning the alleged plot on Mr. Bush just like they were not consulted on the decision to invade Kuwait.

That the United States knows but ignores this fact is a sad story indeed. Worse still, America is adding to the ordeal of this people by denying them their basic right to lifting the trade embargo, and bombing their cities at will.

President Clinton should stop punishing the victim, and his country should start acting like the world leader it is supposed to be. Double standards will not do. The Americans cannot bomb Iraq for what it allegedly planned to do while they tolerate the terror that the Serbs are inflicting upon Muslim Bosnians, for example. The Americans cannot justify that Iraq is being punished for violating Security Council resolutions while denying that the Serbs, the Israelis, the Turks are doing the same thing. Unless cruise missiles are going to hit these countries very soon the Americans cannot be the angels and the guardians of the new world order that the world has hoped for.

U.S. Attack Blamed on Arab Situation, UN Absence

JN2806105093 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Jun 93 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "The Arabs: Where Are They Headed?"]

[Text] The recent U.S. missile attack against Baghdad is a sad outcome of a deteriorating Arab situation and a total absence on the part of the United Nations in international disputes. It is also a new warning to the Arabs that they could pay a much higher price for their divisions and that they should demonstrate courage and restore unity if they are serious about sparing themselves any dangers.

The United Nations should also reassume its role, as stipulated by its Charter, so that it alone can take the law into its own hands when the use of force is necessary. This can happen after listening to the parties of any dispute and making sure that there is no other alternative. Naturally, the U.S. attack against Baghdad shows that Washington prefers a world in which it is the sole power and master. Otherwise, it could have resorted to the Security Council and filed a complaint against Iraq, supported by evidence, if it had any.

It is regrettable that some members of the international family have quickly blessed the attack, in expectation of certain gains. It would have been more appropriate if they had reminded Washington of the UN role in resolving international disputes and that the United Nations is the party that should rule on the plot said to have been hatched by Iraq to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush.

Another point to consider is that President Clinton told Israeli Prime Minister Rabin by telephone about the planned attack. This step is a cause of great concern and implies that the U.S. Administration wants Israel to have a hand in U.S. policy toward Arabs.

The Arabs would do well to ponder the U.S. attack against Baghdad and see whether or not what happened indicates they are really headed toward a comprehensive, just peace they have long advocated.

King Concludes Meetings, Receives Checkup at Mayo Clinic

Further on Meeting With Christopher

JN2506145893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has stressed the importance of His Majesty King Husayn's role in promoting the Middle East peace process. He also lauded the progressive steps Jordan has made in its democratic march, and reiterated the U.S. commitment to the letter of assurances addressed to the parties participating in the peace process.

This statement was made during His Majesty King Husayn's meeting with the U.S. secretary of state in Washington. Details are in our correspondent's dispatch from Washington:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Muhannad al-Khatib] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher received His Majesty King Husayn as he arrived at the State Department at noon yesterday. His majesty the king and the U.S. secretary spoke to reporters during a brief session before they began their official talks. Christopher said the U.S. Administration admires the progressive steps His Majesty King Husayn has made on the path of democracy in Jordan. The U.S. secretary added: We are indebted to his majesty for his continued support for the Middle East peace process, and we thank him for his assistance to us in our attempts to promote this process.

Christopher noted that King Husayn's visit has shed light on several issues of mutual concern between Jordan and the United States and also on the friendly bilateral relations.

King Husayn said his visit to the United States was useful, and that his meeting with the U.S. president gave him an impression that Clinton is determined to make every effort in order to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region. King Husayn added:

[Husayn, in English] We hope that we can continue towards [words indistinct] new dawn of peace and [words indistinct] in our region and to cooperate in many fields and areas.

[Al-Khatib] King Husayn said: We hope that together we can contribute to the beginning of a new era of peace and better future for the coming generations in our region, and that our relations will be characterized by cooperation in various fields.

Asked about the extent of the U.S. commitment to the letter of assurances addressed to the parties concerned with the peace process, the U.S. secretary of state said:

[Christopher, in English] We'll remain committed to the letter of assurances that were given in connection with the Madrid Conference and the restarting of the peace negotiations. We've indicated that parties [words indistinct] as the process was restarted here at the United States. We'are working...

[Al-Khatib] The U.S. secretary said: We are still committed to the letter of assurances in connection with the Madrid Conference. We made this clear to all parties when the talks resumed in Washington. We are still working closely with everyone in the bilateral talks, which, we believe, have reached a substantive phase. His majesty the king has made efforts in order to find solutions to the complicated issues in this process.

Asked about the reported possibility of introducing amendments to the framework of the peace process agreed in Madrid, Christopher said: The United States thinks there should be concentration on dealing with substantive issues, so procedural matters will not derail the negotiations. The U.S. secretary, however, added that if the parties concerned wish to submit any proposals to break the stalemate in talks, the cosponsors of the peace process will respond. [end recording]

Arrives in Rochester for Checkups

JN2606083093 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn arrived in Rochester, Minnesota yesterday, at the end of his official working visit to the United States, for medical checkups at the Mayo Clinic. His majesty was seen off from Andrews Air Force Base in Washington, D.C. by the Jordanian ambassador to Washington, the embassy staff, and a number of U.S. officials.

Given 'Excellent' Bill of Health

JN2706080293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Lieutenant General Dr. Samir Farraj, His Majesty King Husayn's private doctor, has stated that all periodic medical checkups for his majesty were conducted under the supervision of Dr. (Berit) at Mayo Clinic on Friday and Saturday, 25 and 26 June 1993. The full results of these checkups have shown that his majesty enjoys excellent health, God be praised, and that there was no sign of the cancer from which his majesty was suffering.

It was decided to conduct the next periodic checkups in six months, at the end of 1993, God willing.

King, Queen Return Home 28 Jun

JN2806152193 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Jun 93

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn, accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Nur, returned to the homeland today following an official 10-day working visit to the United States at the invitation of U.S. President Bill Clinton. [passage omitted]

AL-RA'Y Views Christopher's Upcoming Middle East Tour

JN2706155793 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Jun 93 p 1

[Editorial: "Christopher and the Shuttle Visits"]

[Text] According to Arab sources in Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will begin shuttle visits to the Middle East in the first half of next month in an effort aimed to advance the peace process.

Naturally, all those concerned with peace and stability in the region welcome invigoration of the peace process. But what is important is not the shuttle visits by Washington, in its capacity as the full partner, but the U.S. commitment to serious action toward implementing Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle, and not to exclude Jerusalem or any other occupied Arab territory.

It is noteworthy to recall the repeated hints made by Rabin, which implied threats to withdraw from the negotiations if the Palestinian negotiators continue to raise the subject of Jerusalem. These threats are totally unacceptable, and the U.S. side, in its capacity as one of the cosponsors of the peace process, should resist them.

If the objective of Christopher's shuttle visits is to pressure the Palestinians to relinquish the essential part of their cause, namely Jerusalem, this objective will never be realized. Furthermore, to follow this difficult road may lead to results that totally conflict with the peace process.

Hizballah Radio Reports U.S. 'Aggression' in Baghdad

NC2706060893 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] The U.S. Administration has added another act of aggression to its lengthy record of crimes against nations. The new aggression took place last night when U.S. Navy ships based in the Red Sea and the Gulf fired 23 sea-to-surface Tomahawk missiles on downtown Baghdad. U.S. sources alleged that the target of the shelling was an Iraqi intelligence center and that the attack was in retaliation for the attempt to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush during his visit to Kuwait in April.

President Bill Clinton said that the United States wanted the shelling to be a clear political message to Iraq. He described Saddam Husayn as a tyrant and a coward.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Les Aspen justified the U.S. attack by citing the 51st clause of the UN Charter, concerning the right to self-defense. Aspen said that the U.S. forces acted alone because the crime—namely, the attempt to assassinate Bush—was directed against the United States alone.

In Baghdad, an Iraqi spokesman today said that the U.S. attack on the Iraqi capital targeted a residential area and caused many fatalities. A spokesman for the Iraqi Culture and Information Ministry said that a residential area was hit by U.S. missiles, noting that another statement on the attack will be issued later.

In New York, it was announced that the UN Security Council will meet tonight upon a request from the United States, which wants to clarify its position regarding the attack on Baghdad and what it calls justified self-defense.

The question now is: Will the UN Security Council tonight justify the renewed U.S. attack? Political observers expect this to happen. The UN Security Council has previously endorsed similar acts in the Gulf, Somalia, and Lebanon. The observers note the UN Security Council's conspiratorial position concerning Bosnia-Herzegovina and its silence regarding the crimes being committed by the Serbs and Croats against the Muslims.

Hizballah Issues Statement

NC2806070393 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Jun 93

[Statement issued by Hizballah; place and date not given]

[Text] The United States, every now and then, likes to remind the world that it is an omnipotent and invincible power. Once again we are faced with the same muscle flexing and unjustified aggression against the Iraqi people.

Washington has used Saddam's recklessness and brinkmanship as justification to strike at Iraq, debilitate it, and complicate the suffering of its people. The U.S. Administration hardly cares about Saddam's crimes and the atrocities he has perpetrated against the Iraqi people, let alone his eight-year aggression against the Islamic Republic.

Saddam's continued hold on power is not the fault of the Iraqi people, who have sacrificed endlessly to bring him down, but a result of a U.S. cynical view that Saddam's being in power is of some use. The new aggression is a cowardly action and U.S. allegations to the contrary are unjustified.

Washington has no right to claim that it is trying to maintain international peace and order. The fate of the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Palestine, Lebanon, and Somalia is proof of the selective standards that Washington applies with regard to human rights and international peace.

Party Says U.S. Raid Aggression Against Mankind

NC2806123893 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Jun 93

[Statement issued by the Progressive Socialist Party's Foreign Relations Office; place and date not given]

The recent U.S. aggression against Iraq, which is totally unjustified regardless of all pretexts, is an act of aggression against the Iraqi people, the Arab nation, and all mankind. Proof of this is the fact that the victims of this aggression were defenseless and innocent civilians and that the pretext advanced by the United States came ahead of the Kuwaiti judiciary's verdict on the matter. This shows hostile and criminal conduct violating the simplest of human rights and reminds us of the dark ages and the law of the jungle.

The statement added: We ask the political and humanitarian organizations and institutions: Has the time not come to condemn such aggression and organized terrorism, which are tearing apart the world's peoples and, consequently, has the time not come to stand beside the Iraqi people before their oppressors, both at home and abroad?

Damascus Radio Reports U.S. Missile Attack on Baghdad

JN2706070193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0615 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Washington—The U.S. television network CNN has said that the United States last night launched a missile attack on an Iraqi intelligence building in central Baghdad in reply to the attempt on the life of former U.S. President George Bush during his visit to Kuwait in April.

U.S. President Bill Clinton has said that Washington has conclusive evidence that the Iraqi regime's authorities tried to assassinate Bush in Kuwait. An Iraqi spokesman has acknowledged the attack.

Al-Shar' Returns From Human Rights Conference 26 Jun

JN2606203393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus this evening after attending the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna from 14-25 June. The foreign minister led the Syrian Arab Republic's delegation to the conference. The Syrian team comprised representatives from the People's Assembly, university professors, the women's association, the League of Syrian Lawyers, and the National Union of Syrian Students.

U.S. Intervention at Talks So Far 'Not Enough'

JN2706224093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The first two weeks of the 10th round of talks have ended without achieving any progress. This prompted the U.S. Administration to express its regret and announce its willingness to intervene more effectively in the final week of this round in an attempt to give momentum to the peace talks and bring them out of the vicious circle they are facing.

If the past 20 months of talks could not move the peace process out of square one, then we believe that the final week will not witness such an accomplishment either, unless a miracle happens in an age where miracles are very scarce. In fact, the peace talks do not require a miracle so much as they require an Israeli commitment to the terms of reference of the peace process and a practical translation of the role of full partner and honest broker that President Clinton's administration took upon itself.

So far, we have not witnessed an Israeli commitment to the terms of reference of the peace process, which is based on implementing Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-principle. We have not witnessed a U.S. translation of the role of full partner either. Israel continues to evade peace requirements and tries to interpret international resolutions in its own way to serve its policy based on occupying and annexing arab territories in a blatant violation of UN resolutions. These resolutions state the inadmissibility of seizing other people's territories by force. We also have not seen the U.S. Administration play its promised role of an honest and fair partner in the peace process, at least not so far. It did not intercede with the Israeli side, the party obstructing the peace talks, to convince it of the need to follow the road chosen by the world community to achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The interventions of the U.S. side were confined to a document presented on the Palestinian-Israeli track in the past round—a document that the Palestinians considered partial to Israel—in addition to some meetings between U.S. officials and heads of the negotiating delegations. These interventions are not enough to bring the talks out of the maze that the Israeli side is deliberately trying to drag these talks into.

The Americans now realize that Israeli intransigence kept the talks at square one. More than one U.S. official noted the need to get out of this square. The Americans stress that the delegations are not authorized to surpass their traditional positions. There is no doubt that the U.S. Department of State spokesman who said this was referring to the Israeli delegations because the Arab delegations launched positive intitiatives, which, if implemented, could have achieved big steps on the road to a peaceful settlement. What confirms this is that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher contacted Israeli Prime Minister Rabin to get his approval regarding a compromise solution on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

Hence, all signs show that deep down, the U.S. side is convinced that the Israelis are the ones who are placing obstacles on the road to peace. This prompts us to ask: When will the U.S. role stop being negative when the issue relates to Israel's violation of international laws, its continued evasion of peace requirements, and its obstruction of all efforts exerted to bring the region out of the vicious circle of wars and destruction? Is this negative U.S. role in harmony with the full-partner concept that Clinton's administration chose to adopt in order to give momentum to the peace process?

The Arabs reaffirmed their adherence to peace and complied with the bases, principles, and resolutions that lead to such peace. Meanwhile, the Israelis only presented sweet talk and eye catching slogans. On the ground, the Israelis continued to launch attacks and statements that confirm their rejection of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, which alone will lead to total peace. We do not think that the picture is so blurred as to conceal details from the U.S. sponsor. The fact is as clear as the summer sun for anyone who wants to see it and for anyone who wants to work for the sake of peace. Will the U.S. Administration do what is required of it, what it is capable of doing, and what it committed itself to? If Washington does that, then we can talk about progress and about a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Upcoming Christopher Tour, U.S. Role in Talks Viewed

JN2706164993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 27 Jun 93

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, AL-BA'TH asks: Is there anything new in the U.S. role as the 10th round of peace talks begins its third and last week? Judgments and expectations are made on the U.S. role, whose effectiveness in this round was stressed by Washington.

It says: When the Clinton administration announced the change in its political delegation tasked with supervising the proceedings of the peace process, views differed on the nature of the U.S. role, and how far it will go. With the continuation of discord, news was leaked about a new tour to the region by Secretary of State Christopher.

AL-BA'TH refers to the tour that the U.S. secretary of state made a few months ago to get acquainted with the views of the parties concerned with the peace process and to get firsthand information on the nature of the region.

AL-BA'TH stresses that what the U.S. secretary heard from the parties concerned was the same as what he is hearing now. When the Arabs agreed to be involved in the peace process, they did so clearly and openly, and their acceptance was based on the principles on which the peace process was launched, in addition to the U.S. guarantees and reassurances that preceded and accompanied the process.

Christopher heard differing replies from the Israeli side—all with the same objective. Since the Madrid conference and up until now, they have insisted on occupation and procrastination in order to evade peace.

AL-BA'TH concludes: The round and its results are completely tied to the effectivness of the U.S. role, which can advance the peace process through ending the stalemate caused by Israel.

Commenting on the same subject, AL-THAWRAH says in one of its articles that since the peace process began, Israel has been trying to evade any serious discussions of peace that entails full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The newspaper also stresses that Israel has not taken any positive position that can lead to the conclusion that it abandoned the policy of expansion and aggression, or that it really wants to provide the minimum conditions for advancing the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH says: Throughout a long series of rounds of talks, Israel used its skills in fabricating obstacles and resorted to all methods of deception and trickery in order to circumvent the substance and principles of the peace process, which was launched on the basis of implementation of international resolutions and the principle of land for peace.

The newspaper said: During the current round, Israel evaded clear and open answers on anything that is serious and important to advance the bilateral talks. Whenever the subject of full withdrawal is presented as a basic condition for attaining just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, Israel links this issue with preconditions that are not included in Resolution 242, which is the main pillar of peace in the region.

AL-THAWRAH says: The concept that Israel presents for security shows that it is not serious about making peace, and that it insists on continuing the occupation of the Arab territories, in addition to its determination to continue its denial of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: The U.S. sponsor is supposed to take this fact into consideration—this fact that is putting the peace process on a serious collision course. The U.S. sponsor should convince Israel that only peace can provide security and stability for all parties, and that security can never be at the expense of the principles of just and comprehensive peace, or at the expense of one party.

India

Clinton Hits Baghdad To Revive 'Sagging Popularity'

BK2806035493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 Jun 93

[Commentary by Arun Kumar Roy, All India Radio's former West Asia correspondent: "U.S. Missile Attack on Baghdad"]

[Text] As the U.S. Tomahawk cruise missiles hit the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, on Saturday night, the world was least prepared for the event. More than two dozen missiles, which were targeted toward the Iraqi intelligence headquarters, left many civilian casualties and Iraq condemned the attack as an unjust aggression. What this U.S. missile attack was meant to convey was that President Bill Clinton has suddenly changed his course in the West Asia diplomacy. When he came to power, Bill Clinton clearly indicated that he was not interested in toppling or removing President Saddam Husayn at any cost as his predecessor Mr. George Bush did. In fact, he announced that he would not mind President Saddam Husayn, who survived despite the Gulf war and Mr. Bush's persistent attempts to throw him out, provided the Iraqi president behaved according to international norms. But Saturday's missile attacks clearly indicated that the prospect of a thaw in the U.S.-Iraqi relations has vanished and now Bill Clinton is out to see that Saddam Husayn goes. That was made amply clear by the U.S. defense secretary, Mr. Les Aspin, when he said that the missile attack was not against the Iraqi people but against the Iraqi authority. He said the missile attack was meant to be a signal to the Iraqi people that they should not back the present Iraqi authority.

The U.S. missile attack on Baghdad was in retaliation against the Iraqi involvement in a conspiracy to kill the former U.S. president, Mr. Bush, during his visit to Kuwait. As the ruling Kuwaiti family welcomed Mr. Bush as the savior from the Iraqi aggression, the CIA is supposed to have discovered a plot to kill the former U.S. president with the help of a car bomb planted by the Iraqi intelligence.

The U.S. chief of staff, General Colin Powell, said the attack was designed to inflict maximum damage with minimum casualties, and he was happy that most of the cruise missiles found the target, although a few might have missed it. But the question is not whether the world's only superpower has fired the missiles accurately on the targets, but why it chose to launch the attack now. Bill Clinton said there was compelling evidence to kill Mr. Bush, but there is no compelling reason why the U.S. President should have launched this missile attack when the glow of Gulf war has nearly vanished. The only compelling reason for Bill Clinton to act in this way was to retrieve his sagging popularity.

The U.S. action has clearly confused its Western allies and the Arab countries. Although the British prime minister, Mr. John Major, has come out in support of Washington's action as a justified attack in self-defense, clearly other allies are not reacting that spontaneously. This was evident at the emergency session of the Security Council. The nonaligned countries called pointedly for full and consistent implementation of all UN resolutions. As for the Arab countries, the U.S. missile attack has created a serious embarrassment. If not anything, the U.S. missile attack has again revived the West Asia to the center-stage of the world politics. Any hope of an understanding between President Saddam Husayn and Washington has vanished.

Border Talks With China Consider Opening More Crossings

BK2706032493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] The sixth meeting of the India-China joint working group on the boundary question considered the opening of more border points of trade yesterday. On the second day of its meeting in New Delhi, the group also discussed the role of the United Nations and the need to restructure it.

The Chinese vice foreign minister, Mr. Tang Jiaxuan, who led his side at the talks, also met the external affairs minsiter, Mr. Dinesh Singh. The two leaders expressed keen interest in strengthening economic ties between the two countries. They hoped the discussions of the joint working group will help in further strengthening relations between the two countries.

Talks Extended

BK2806053293 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] The Indo-Chinese joint working group has extended talks for two more days to reach an understanding on additional confidence-building measures along the Line of Control and opening of two more border posts for trade between the two countries. The two-day talks, which were scheduled to conclude yesterday, will now continue up to tomorrow. The sixth meeting of the joint working group is being cochaired by the foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, and Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Mr. Tang Jiaxuan and it has held discussions on a number of bilateral, regional, and international issues.

Iran

Officials, Media React to U.S. Strike on Baghdad

Cabinet Sees 'Big Insult' to World

LD2706154893 Tehran IRNA in English 1521 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 27, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran on Sunday [27 June] deplored early today's U.S.

missile attacks on Baghdad and said the prospect for the U.S.-initiated new world order was alarming.

The Iranian Government in its Sunday's session termed the attack as a "big insult" to the world community and an act "undermining" its organs.

"The U.N. Security Council should show that it is capable of standing to the unrestrained policies and adventurism of U.S. leaders and of condemning such perpetrations," it said.

The Cabinet of Ministers also expressed sympathy with the Iraqi people whom they said have been subjected to a double act of tyranny on the part of their own government and the U.S.

The Government expressed hope that independent governments and the world's public opinion would show an "appropriate reaction" to the "unlawfulness and bullying of the U.S.

Foreign Ministry Says UN Charter Violated

LD2706165093 Tehran IRNA in English 1638 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 27, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry on Sunday [27 June] lashed out at today's U.S. missile attack on Baghdad and termed it as a "breach of the principles of the U.N. Charter" and as an act "promoting violence" and a "threat" to world peace and security.

"The Islamic Republic considers the resort to force by the U.S. outside the principles of the U.N. Charter as a dangerous act the first victim of which will be the international law recognized by civilized nations," it said in a statement.

Such an act committed by the U.S. would only result in promoting a culture of violence and state terrorism in international relations, the statement said.

The attack on Iraq which resulted in massacre of defenceless people simultaneously with indifference to the carnage of Bosnian Muslims and absence of any effective measures against Serbian crimes are in no way justifiable, it said.

Majles Committee on 'Threat to World Peace'

LD2706103893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] The Foreign Committee of the Islamic Consultative Majles has condemned this morning's U.S. missile attack against Baghdad, describing it as a clear act of international aggression which cannot be justified by any international agreement.

The statement issued by the committee says: The behavior of the American politicians and their self-centeredness [khod mehvari] and obstinacy are threatening the world with war. How can a government allow itself to accuse another country, carry out the trial itself, and—worst of all, through bullying—itself implement the punishment?

The Foreign Committee of the Islamic Consultative Majles expresses regret at the dictatorial behavior of the U.S. Government vis-a-vis international issues, and regards this morning's U.S. missile attack on Baghdad as a threat to world peace and security. It calls on the nations of the world to maintain their vigilance against this fresh U.S. expansionism.

The Majles Foreign Committee statement stresses that the global scene should not be turned into a new world expansionism, and that the U.S. Government is responsible for all effects and consequences of this clear military aggression.

Commentary Questions Clinton's Motives

NC2706075293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Station commentary by the News Commentaries Group]

[Text] Early this morning, the United States again attacked Iraq, using 23 cruise missiles. U.S. President Bill Clinton reported the move on television, saying: With this measure, I wish to convey a clear message to Iraq not to attack us again.

Clinton's pretext for the attack on Iraq was Baghdad's involvement in the plot to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush.

In Farvardin [21 March-20 April], when George Bush went to Kuwait on the anniversary of its liberation, a group was arrested for plotting to kill Bush. Most of this group's members are said to be Iraqi and they are being tried in Kuwait.

By accusing Iraq of involvement in a plot against the former U.S. president and by linking it with his attack last night on Iraq after four months, Clinton seeks to gain popularity among the American people and to justify his military operations and attack on Baghdad. Some 23 American missiles were fired from its warships toward Baghdad, 14 from a warship in the Red Sea and nine from a warship in the Persian Gulf.

In its initial reaction against the U.S. missile attack on Baghdad, Iraq announced that the U.S. missiles hit Baghdad's residential areas and killed civilians. This comes at the same time the United States claimed the attack targeted nonresidential areas.

The U.S. missile attack on Baghdad was unexpected, one that perhaps the Baghdad echelons could not have predicted. Despite the problems Iraq recently created for the UN investigative team in the inspection of its nuclear installations, it did agree to this lately. It was announced yesterday that UN officials entered these centers and intended to return the enriched uranium Iraq purchased from Russia. Following talks between Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and the UN secretary general, Iraq said it agreed to the dismantling of its arsenal of weapons of mass destruction.

Last Friday, to pressure Iraq to accept the UN inspectors and to maintain supervision over Iraq's missile bases, Clinton said Iraq should stop stalling for time. Iraq displayed the required flexibility and Clinton ordered a missile attack on Iraq.

In the past few days, the official Iraqi newspapers also abandoned their propaganda attacks against the United States. The question is: Why did Clinton adopt this policy of stringent action against Iraq? During his election campaign, Clinton constantly stressed U.S. domestic affairs, but, as soon as he entered the White House, he encountered circumstances that projected a weak image of the Clinton administration. Following his election as President, Clinton's policies led to a decline in his popularity among Americans. Trying to compensate for his waning popularity and to assert his administration's strength, Clinton considered such a step necessary.

That these actions conflict with the policies he propagated during his presidential campaign can tarnish his popularity. But the most important issue now confronting Clinton is that the post-Cold War United States seeks to preserve its position as the sole superpower. Efforts to do so require actions to show the country's strength. By resorting to military action, the United States seeks to warn contentious powers in the region that they should not try to jeopardize U.S. superiority. The contrast between U.S. domestic and foreign policy will have a resulting negative effect on U.S. policies and on Clinton's position.

International Reactions Contrasted

NC2806064593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 28 Jun 93

[Commentary by the News Commentaries Group; from the "In the Margin of the News" feature]

[Text] The U.S. missile attack on Iraq has sparked extensive and varying reactions in the world. Some countries have expressed support for the U.S. stance and have tried to justify the action by Bill Clinton's administration, while other countries have condemned the attack and described it as contrary to international norms and regulations. This is happening after the U.S. attack on Iraq, after the UN Security Council has held a session at U.S. request, during which both the United States and Iraq explained their positions.

Among the countries that have tried to justify the U.S. missile operations against Iraq are the Russian Federation, Britain, Italy, Sweden, and Germany, all of which have described the U.S. missile attack as just and as a suitable answer to Iraq for its involvement in a plan to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush. The United States claims that this plan was implemented by Iraq during Bush's visit to Kuwait last April but was uncovered and foiled.

Some other European countries, namely France and Belgium, have described as understandable Bill Clinton's reasons and have justified the U.S. act. As can be gleaned from the positions of this group of countries, they have emphasized the principle of confronting terrorism, have classified the U.S. act as a confrontation of terrorism, and have supported this act without taking into consideration whether it was within the framework of legal and international norms or not.

Regarding these position, there is a group of countries that has condemned the U.S. act by referring to international norms and has described it as an arbitrary act that is outside the framework of international regulations and that could set a precedence for exploitation by big powers on the international scene. The Islamic Republic of Iran, the Arab League, comprising a group of Arab countries, Malaysia, and Sudan have each stated their positions and have described the U.S. act not as an act against terrorism but as an act that is itself an example of terrorism and one that can become a threat to the national sovereignty of governments by powerful countries of the world.

In its statement, the Arab League said that solving international problems by force and not in accordance with international law is fraught with danger that can upset the international order. Iran has described the U.S. act as blatant international aggression. Malaysia has described the U.S. attack as unjust and as an element that will exacerbate the tension in the Middle East. Sudan too has described it as state terrorism.

If we look at the group of governments that have justified the U.S. aggression and the group of governments that have condemned the U.S. act, and compare these groups with the groups that participated in the international human rights conference, we can see the persistent efforts by the big powers to expand their influence and diktat inside national borders and to ignore the national sovereignty of governments. During the human rights conference in Vienna, which ended just the day before the U.S. missile attack on Iraq, two groups of countries confronted each other. The European countries on the whole supported the creation of an organization that can pursue the issue of human rights throughout the world with the ability to take action without taking national boundaries into consideration. But Third World countries opposed the formation of such an institution because it can become a tool in the hands of the big powers. The lack of agreement between these two groups caused the formation of this institution to be postponed.

The positions that have been adopted on the U.S. attack on Iraq show that by insisting on the formation of such an organization, the big powers are trying to create a legal framework for their expansionist efforts. And even though this institution has not yet been created, these countries exploit their power and, while ignoring international institutions, they strive to achieve their own political interests and ignore the national boundaries of governments. However, it is now clear that the formation of such an institution can become a tool in their hands and a legal justification for their acts.

The concern of the developing countries also stems from this. Now the United States is trying at the Security Council to invoke Article 51 of the UN Charter and to portray its act as legitimate and the use of force as the right to a legitimate defense. However, it is very unlikely that the U.S. act conforms to this principle. In a legitimate defense, the major condition is that the actions of both sides be proportionate. However, in the case of the U.S. missile attack against Iraq, the United States fired 23 missiles to attack a country and to kill civilians, only on the pretext that a group intended to plot against the former U.S. president.

Velayati Opens Seminar on Peace, Stability in Gulf

LD2606120493 Tehran IRNA in English 0950 GMT 26 June 93

[Text] Tehran, June 26, IRNA—The 4th seminar on the 'Prospects for Peace and Stability in the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea' was inaugurated here Saturday [26 June] with the opening speech of Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The three-day seminar is attended by some 500 political analysts from Iran and 14 other world countries and is sponsored by the Foreign Ministry's Institute for Political and International Studies. Addressing the participants, Velayati said that the Persian Gulf's economic and strategic role had attracted the attention of expansionist powers, thus substantially increasing the pace of developments in the region. He noted that Iraq's defeat in the Persian Gulf crisis was marked by a severe fall in the rich Arab states financial resources, the active presence of foreign troops in the Persian Gulf and the conclusion of military agreements with the regional countries. Velayati added that Iraq's defeat created a tension that was directly attributable to the intervention of inter-regional forces. Regional detente and the realization of security and stability would disengage these forces from the area, he stressed.

Stressing that the power vacuum in the northern Iraq would create unfavorable conditions for neighboring countries, Velayati said that the four foreign ministerial sessions of Iran, Syria and Turkey aimed at evaluating Iraq's situation, while underscoring the need to preserve Iraq's independence and territorial integrity as a country, and condemning all acts of terrorism in Iraq.

Velayati turned to regional security as another crucial factor in the Persian Gulf and reiterated that mutual confidence seemed the only logical answer to skepticisms and fears of the regional countries. "In view of salient international events such as the cessation of the Cold War and a penchant among governments for more regional cooperation, Iran believes that multi-faced cooperations among Persian Gulf is inevitable, and will lead to peace and stability in this strategic waterway," he remarked.

Saying that oil issues are an integral part of the Persian Gulf region, Velayati believed that if aliens controlled oil prices, events similar to the Kuwaiti crisis would unfold and endanger international peace and security. He reiterated the necessity of understanding and cooperation among regional countries.

Also addressing the seminar, Deputy Foreign Minister for Education and Research 'Abbas Maleki referred to the importance of the Persian Gulf region throughout the history, and said that Iran with over 1,250 kms of coastline in the Persian Gulf, was the largest country in the region, whose ports and islands, situated in this region, played a crucial role in Iran's and world's commercial exchanges. He noted that this region, known to Westerners as the world oil store, possessed over 565 billion barrels of oil or 63 percent of the overall world oil reserves. The gas reserves of the Persian Gulf had been estimated to be 31 trillion cubic meter or 30 percent of the world's natural gas reserves, he added. He concluded that the seminar carried the message of agreement on reconstruction.

James Bill, a professor of the college of Virginia, said that to understand the problem of the regional security, the impact of various internal issues that challenge the stability of the states of the Persian Gulf should be analyzed. He gave a brief analysis of the symbiosis between domestic problems and regional security in the Persian Gulf, putting the special emphasis upon the related crisis of identity, legitimacy and participation as they affect the overall security of the region.

Dr. Dawud Hermidas Bavand, from Imam Sadeq University of Iran, believed that the Persian Gulf region held a salient position in the political and security system of the region, as well as in international solidarity as a major supplier of a strategic commodity, specially required by industrial societies. While Iran has declared close cooperation among all coastal countries as the prerequisite for a viable regional security system, Iraq has always sought to gain a greater coastal role in the Persian Gulf by creating insecurity among regional countries, he concluded.

No Plans To Interfere in Azerbaijan

NC2606100693 Paris AFP in English 0917 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 26 (AFP)—Iran has no plans to interfere in Azerbaijan's internal affairs and will do all it can to promote peace and stability within its northern neighbor, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said Saturday [26 June].

"We trust whatever is the desire of the people of Azerbaijan and their legal representatives," Velayati said at the opening of a seminar on security in the Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

Azerbaijan's parliament voted Thursday to strip President Abulfaz Elchibey of his powers and transfer them to former communist boss Geydar Aliyev in a bid to end a three-week-old political crisis in the former Soviet republic.

Albufaz fled the capital city Baku last week as rebels advanced on the city. The rebel commander blames the president for setbacks in Azerbaijan's war with Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh, a mainly Armenian enclave inside Azerbaijan.

"Iran and Azerbaijan share a long border and have many historical and cultural commonalities, but we have no intention of interfering in that country," he said. "With time, this will gradually be proved to the people of Azerbaijan."

Velayati said Iran was prepared to strengthen relations with the former Soviet republic and to help bring peace and stability to the country.

The three-day seminar, organized by the foreign ministry, will discuss regional security, the situation in Iraq and political factors affecting oil prices.

Navy Commander Speaks

LD2606155993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Excerpts] As we noted earlier in the bulletin, the fourth international seminar on the Persian Gulf opened in Tehran today with 15 countries participating. [passage omitted]

Navy Commander Admiral Shamkhani made a speech at the session in which he stressed the importance of the Persian Gulf region as a strategic waterway within the Middle East as whole. He then criticized the arms race among the regional countries, saying that by forming military protocols with the countries of the region, the West intends to enhance its domination over the oil resources in the area. He further considered the presence of deadly and destructive weapons, in particular the deployment of 100 nuclear warheads in Israel, as a potential threat to the region's security. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views Security Arrangements

LD2706132393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0959 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] While Iran has raise the establishment of peace and stability in the Persian Gulf region for discussion by convening a seminar entitled Peace and Stability in the Persian Gulf, America has targeted Baghdad by launching 23 missiles. The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran has gathered together various experts from regional states and other world states in the Seminar on Peace and Stability in the Persian Gulf to study ways of achieving peace and stability in that region and bring about the possibility among the regional states of reaching a common definition of security.

Today, with the seminar in its second day, it has been reported that America has targeted Iraq with cruise missiles. The American attack against Iraq came early today at which time nine missiles were launched toward Baghdad from American warships stationed in the Persian Gulf and 14 from American ships stationed in the Red Sea.

The coincidence of those two events symbolically reveals the reality that the understanding of the Persian Gulf region states of peace and security is completely different from the understanding of those states outside the region. With the oil war and the expulsion of Iraq from Kuwait two years ago the creation of new security arrangements in the Persian Gulf region has been the most important issue debated in determining policies related to that region. The powerful states of the region and the foreign powers that are influential in the Persian Gulf, each, proportionate to their own political interests, have proposed security arrangements they want for the Persian Gulf and are seeking their realization.

Iran, stressing the principle of cooperation, considered some measure as guarantees for safeguarding peace and stability, which should take form with the cooperation of the countries of the region and without the presence of foreign powers. From Iran's point of view the presence of foreign powers not only does not constitute a factor for security of the region but can cause instability in the region because the foreign powers act in consideration of their own interests and not the interest of regional states.

The Iranian foreign minister, Dr. Velayati, in his recent tour of the Persian Gulf littoral states, proved that the only way to achieve peace and stability is cooperation among the Persian littoral states. In the seminar on prospects for peace and stability in the Persian Gulf, which is under way in Tehran, the Iranian foreign minister called the expansion of cooperation among the Persian Gulf states an unavoidable necessity and considered that necessity in strengthening the stability and tranquillity of the Persian Gulf. He considered the West's military presence in the Persian Gulf to be the main factor in destabilizing relations among the regional states and instability and ambiguity regarding the future of the region.

In contrast to that viewpoint, America has delineated measures for the Persian Gulf region in which American presence has been envisaged as a factor for the consolidation and safeguarding of those measures. To bring about the necessary grounds for obtaining regional support for its security plan, America is trying, through heightening tension in the Persian Gulf, to further incline the Persian Gulf southern littoral states toward itself. On the one hand, America expands the sale of arms to the region's states to increase their military dependence on it. On the other hand—through stressing this issue that small Persian Gulf states, despite receiving plentiful supply of arms, are powerless to defend themselves—it pretends its presence in the region, even on a limited scale, as a superior power is necessary to maintain balance in the region. On that basis America has always expressed concern over the littoral Persian Gulf states becoming close to Iran.

Political experts believe that any regional system is influenced by the behavior of the governments of that region in one respect and by big powers and international environment in another. Factors outside the region are considered to be imposed factors, which put states under pressure. Therefore, their role results rather from impositions that, before anything else, fulfill the interests of the powers outside the region than from the interests of the regional states. This is when the regional states, despite their own special interests, perform their role by taking into consideration the very close ties between on others' interests in the region.

The Persian Gulf, because of its economic-strategic importance and the existence of oil deposits, has a special place in the eyes of the big powers. Meanwhile, America is trying to safeguard its interests even by provoking crisis-creating factors and creating tension in the region. It is clear that the damaging consequences of heightening tension and crisis in the Persian Gulf will affect the countries of the region before all. Therefore, it is necessary for the regional states that—through endeavoring to reduce outside pressure—lay the foundation stone of the regional security arrangements on the basis of cooperation. That is because such arrangements will find better ground for implementation because they embody the interests of the regional states and take those states to their goals.

Hajj Supervisor Comments on Saudi Ban, Behavior

LD2606114693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Excerpts] At a news conference today, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Mohammadi-Reyshahri, the representative of the supreme jurisconsult and supervisor of Iranian pilgrims to the House of God, announced that all Iranian pilgrims have now returned home. He described the achievements of this year's pilgrimage—in comparison to previous years—as very successful according to the yardsticks set out by the objectives of the Abrahamite hajj and the fundamental beliefs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: Despite the prevention by the Saudi officials of the staging of the disavowal of infidels ceremony, this year we were able to convey the hajj message to the world better than any other time in the past, a message about the unity of Muslims and confrontation with arrogance.

According to a Central News Unit report, the representative of the supreme jurisconsult and supervisor of Iranian pilgrims declared: What took place in holy Mecca on 28 May was nothing but the disavowal of infidels. All Muslims present at the hajj ceremonies grasped the context of the message of the Abrahamite hajj. They understood what we intended to convey in our hajj message.

Mr. Reyshahri referred to the Saudi Government's ban on the disavowal of infidels ceremonies, and stated: In view of the earlier agreements between the two countries, and with regard to the fact that in previous years we staged the ceremonies without any problems, the government's action could not have been predicted. He added: Before the start of this year's hajj rituals, the Saudi officials expressed no opposition to the staging of the disavowal of infidels ceremonies. Even the Saudi religious endowment minister,in his meeting with the head of Iran's hajj organization, gave no indication about any ban on the staging of these ceremonies.

On the reason for the Saudi officials' opposition to the disavowal ceremonies, Mr. Reyshahri stated: The officials stated that they were opposed to the staging of disavowal ceremonies because they were not prepared, and also because of increasing internal and external pressure on their country. They said: We have done much service for Iranians; our reward should be that this year you do not stage the ceremonies. [passage omitted]

In reply to a correspondent's question, Mr. Reyshahri denied any arrest or violent encounter by Saudi forces toward Iranian pilgrims. He said: Contrary to the rumors, the officials acted in a polite manner. He added: I hope Saudi Arabia has realized its mistake, and I also hope that it will not allow minor issues to undermine good relations. [passage omitted]

2,000 Nahbandan-Based Afghan Refugees Return Home

LD2806082493 Tehran IRNA in English 0656 GMT 28 Jun 93

[Text] Nahbandan, Khorasan Prov., June 28, IRNA—A batch of 2,000 Afghan refugees residing in this northeastern city returned home in past two days, head of the Nahbandan-based Afghan Refugees Repatriation Office said here Sunday [27 June].

He said the group, comprising 370 families, crossed into Afghanistan via "Do-Kohaneh" border, 106 kms east of the city.

Expressing gratitude over Iran's hospitality towards the refugees, a representative of Afghan refugees called on his fellow countrymen residing in this province to return home soon to accelerate reconstruction of their war-stricken homeland.

Noting that the repatriation took place in the absence of any representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), he said UNHCR representatives should be present to supervise over the distribution of the allocated aid among the refugees.

Customs Office Reports Increase in Nonoil Exports

LD2606083693 Tehran IRNA in English 0655 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 26, IRNA—Non-oil exports fetched the country rls. [rials] 195 billion in 1371 (March 1992-March 1993), an increase of more than eight percent compared to the previous year.

According to the customs office, in the same year non-oil exports, increased by 700 tons in terms of weight, reached 3.3 million tons.

The major export items were carpets and rugs weighing 21.7 tons consisting of 38 percent of the non-oil exports.

The leading importers of Iran's non-oil products were Turkey, Germany, Dubayy, Italy and Switzerland, the customs office announced. In 1371, Turkey imported 712,000 tons of the products, while another 356,000 tons were exported to Dubayy and 192,000 tons to Germany, the office said.

He added that an overall 21 million tons of products valued at rls. 2,006 billion were imported in 1371, down by 25 percent in terms of weight compared to 1370. The main articles imported were industrial machineries, steam boilers, mechanical tools, electrical appliances and spare parts. These products were imported mainly from Germany, Japan, Italy, Britain and Dubayy, the customs office said.

Council Endorses Midterm Elections in Some Constituencies

LD2706154593 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] The Guardian Council endorsed at its session today the validity of the midterm elections of the Mughan, Khorramshahr, Gonbad-e Kabus, Fasa, Ramian, and the Zoroastrian religious minority constituencies.

Nepal

Communist Party Calls Strike To Protest Government Report

BK2506115993 Hong Kong AFP in English 1022 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] Kathmandu, June 25 (AFP)—At least 15 people were arrested Friday [25 June] after pelting vehicles and police during a general strike called by a Nepali Communist Party which shut shops and halted traffic here and in other cities in the Kathmandu valley.

The dawn-to-dusk strike called by the Nepal Communist Party- United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML), and supported by six other leftist factions, was in protest against a government report that attributed the deaths of two of its leaders to negligence.

Party sources said the action was designed to paralyse the three cities of Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur, which have a combined population of about one million people.

Police said unidentified hooligans attacked and damaged buses and private cars on the roads of the capital, including a tourist bus that had its windscreen smashed near the Royal Army headquarters in Kathmandu. Police said two boys were caught hitting the vehicle.

"At least 25 government, public and private vehicles were damaged," a Home Ministry spokesman said. "At least fifteen protestors were arrested for damaging vehicles and throwing stones at police.

"Police had to use teargas shells at the protestors who pelted stones at the Sajha Yatayat-the state run cooperative building and at the Head Office of the ruling Nepali Congress party," he added.

A few state-run public transport buses operating in Kathmandu were also attacked—despite the presence of riot police on board. Buses between Kathmandu and Bhaktapur were halted after similar attacks.

However, an airport official said that international flights to Delhi and London had not been disrupted and that domestic flights were operating on schedule.

The NCP-UML is angry at a report issued by former Supreme Court Justice Prachand Raj Anil on a jeep accident last month that killed two senior party leaders, Secretary General Madan Kumar Bhandari and Central Committee member Jeev Raj Ashrit.

Bhandari was a strong critic of the government, especially in opposition to the Indo-Nepal Accord on the Tanakpur barrage.

The report identified the cause of the May 16 accident as negligence, blaming driver Amar Lama—a NCP-UML member—and dismissed speculation by opposition groups and local newspapers that the accident had been planned.

A separate report prepared by an NCP-UML commission, under the chairmanship of MP K.P. Oli said: "The NCP-UML leaders were not killed in the jeep accident but they were murdered in cold blood which was stage managed."

"The driver of the jeep is also deeply involved in this conspiracy," the report added.

On Thursday night, NCP-UML activists and youths staged an anti-government demonstration in Kathmandu, shouting slogans against Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, and demanding a high-level investigation commission on the accident under the chairmanship of a supreme court justice.

They also demanded that the "real culprits" behind the accident be punished.

The Koirala government has deployed armed riot police to public buildings, as well as the American Library which was attacked by demonstrators last week after NCP-UML allegations that former United States Ambassador to Nepal, Julia Chang Bloch, was involved in a conspiracy.

Casualties Mount as Unrest Continues

BK2706154593 Hong Kong AFP in English 1235 GMT 27 Jun 93

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, June 27 (AFP)—Nepali police said they had shot dead at least five people and injured 17 others during three days of anti-government unrest here, while witnesses and communist party sources put the death toll at eight.

The government also said millions of dollars of damage had been caused to property in the worst violence here since the re- establishment of multi-party democracy in Nepal in April 1990.

The witnesses and party sources said 40 had been injured and more than 200 arrested since a general strike called by the Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) turned violent on Friday [25 June].

A Home Ministry source said only five people were killed and 17 injured in police firing since Friday when angry mobs clashed with riot police.

The government, in a bid to control the situation, clamped a curfew for two successive nights on Friday and Saturday.

Police said on Sunday that at least 77 people were arrested for defying the night long curfew order and for trying to destroy public and private property.

The curfew violators had also tried to set fire to a petrol station at Chabel locality in Kathmandu, police said.

The NCP-UML is angry at a report issued by former Supreme Court Justice Prachand Raj Anil on a jeep accident that occurred on May 16 at DXAS Dhunga area 180 kilometres (112 miles) west of here, in which two senior party leaders, General Secretary Madan Kumar Bhandari and Central Committee member Jeev Raj Ashrit were killed.

Bhandari was a strong critic of the government, especially on its signing of a water accord on the Tanakpur Barrage with India.

The violence flared when riot police and communist activists clashed in different parts of the capital during Friday's dawn-to-dusk general strike called by the NCP-UML.

The party is demanding a high-level all-party investigation commission on the accident under the chairmanship of a sitting supreme court justice.

The government report identified the cause of the May 16 jeep accident as negligence, blaming the driver Amar Lama, a NCP-UML member, and dismissing opposition and newspaper allegations that the accident had been planned.

A separate report prepared by an NCP-UML commission said: "The NCP-UML leaders were not killed in the jeep accident but they were murdered in cold blood which was stage managed.

"The driver of the jeep is also deeply involved in this conspiracy," the report added.

Some observers said the violence had been fuelled by activists seeking a revival of Nepal's pre-1990 partyless system of government.

The observers said the revivalists, along with extreme left communists demanding republican form of government, had picked up the ball kicked off by the NCP-UML.

A police source said most of the people involved in the violence were employees of carpet industries allied to leftist factions.

"Most of these people are from outside districts who are indisciplined, uneducated, and wild," the source said.

The NCP-UML and other leftist factions denied they had called for the demonstrations on Saturday, saying the Friday strike call was inside democratic norms.

They said the people had taken things into their own hands, and forced shopkeepers to pull down their shutters in protest at the police action.

NCP-UML leader Man Mohan Adhikari, however, blamed the government for the current political situation.

In 1990 the now-ruling Nepali Congress Party and the communists joined hands to force the restoration of a multi-party system.

The president of the Nepali Congress, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, has appealed to the NCP-UML and other opposition parties to cooperate to normalize the situation, and the focus is expected to shift to parliament which opens Sunday afternoon for its budget session, political observers here said.

A curfew was imposed in Kathmandu for a third consecutive night Sunday, state radio announced.

"If anybody breaks the curfew order within the nine-hour period, they can be shot by police security guards," the announcement said.

Body Retrieved From Hospital

BK2706153893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1355 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Kathmandu, June 27 (AFP)—Some 5,000 Nepali communists on Sunday [27 June] forcefully retrieved the dead body of a fellow activist who had been shot dead by police the day before, a party source said.

The activists forced their way into the state-run Bir Hospital and retrieved the body of Mahesh Manandhar, who was shot dead when an angry mob clashed with riot police on Saturday.

"The body was taken to the house of Manandhar and later to the holy banks of Bagmati River for cremation," the party source said.

Nepali police have said they shot five people and injured 17 during three days of government unrest here, although witnesses and communist party sources have put the figure at nine dead and 50 injured.

Clashes in Lalitpur

BK2806094693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0934 GMT 28 Jun 93

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, June 27 (AFP) [dateline as received]—At least four people were killed and five injured when police opened fire Monday [28 June] on thousands of angry communist demonstrators in the town of Lalitpur in the Kathmandu valley witnesses and party sources said.

There was no immediate official confirmation of the deaths in the violent clashes in Lalitpur, a known communist stronghold near the capital, which erupted following three days of street violence in Kathmandu triggered by a communist protest strike.

The new deaths brought the unofficial casualty toll in police shootings in the spreading unrest in the valley at at least 25 dead and 80 injured since Friday when a general strike called by the Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) turned violent.

Officials have put the toll at seven dead and 50 injured.

NCP-UML sources and witnesses said more than 8,000 people took to the streets of Lalitpur Monday, demanding the resignation of Prime Miniser Girija Prasad Koirala.

The riot police fired teargas shells and charged with batons to disperse the demonstrators, the witnesses said.

"The demonstrators panicked and started throwing stones at police, and in retaliation they fired indiscriminately killing at least four and injuring five others who are now undergoing emergency operation to retrieve the bullets at a hospital," a party source said.

"Police even fired at a young girl, Rita Shilpakar, who was watching the action from her window," the source said, and gave the names of two of the four dead as Raj Man Shakya, 35, and Krishna Manandhar, 25.

A NCP-UML parliamentarian told AFP on condition of anonimity that Home Minister Sher Bahadur Deupa had failed to maintain law and order situaion and control the agitation. He should now resign on moral grounds with a democratic spirit.

The Nepalese Government in a bid to control the spreading violence has clamped overnight curfews with shoot on sight warnings for violators for three successive nights. Thirty-four people were arrested for defying the curfew order on Sunday.

The NCP-UML and other leftist factions have denied calling for the demonstrations that followed the general strike they called Friday to protest a government report that found negligence to be the cause of death of two of their leaders last month.

The report, issued by former Supreme Court Justice Prachand Raj, found that the two, General Secretary Madan Kumar Bhandari and Central Committee member Jeev Raj Ashrit died as the result negligence in a jeep accident May 16.

Bhandari was a strong critic of the Koirala government, especially of a water sharing agreement it signed with India, and the party's own investigation of the crash determined that the two leaders were "murdered in cold blood."

The NCP-UML, which claims the driver of the jeep was involved in the "conspiracy" to kill Bhandari and Ashrit, is demanding a high- level all party investigation commission on the accident under the chairmanship of a sitting supreme court justice.

Some observers here said they believed the violence is being fuelled by activists seeking a revival of Nepal's pre-1990 partyless system of government.

The observers said the revivalists, along with extreme left communists demanding republican form of government, had cashed in on the NCP-UML agitation.

In Kathmandu, most shops remained shuttered and vehicles stayed off the streets in fear of continued violence there.

Premier Returns From Overseas Tour, Views Report

BK2606163993 Hong Kong AFP in English 1542 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Text] Kathmandu, June 26 (AFP)—Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala returned home Saturday [26 June] declaring his twelve-day four-nation visit to Europe and Israel a success in gaining international recognition for Nepal's fledgling democracy.

Koirala, who attended the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna as the leader of the Nepalese delegation, told newsmen: "The Vienna Conference has accepted Nepal as a country where human rights are fully honoured under a democratic system of government."

He described as successful and beneficial his trips to Austria, Finland, Germany, and Israel.

Koirala described his talks with Finnish Pesident Mauno Koivisto and Prime Minsiter Esko Aho as "warm and friendly."

"In my discussion with the Finnish Government leaders about the future economic assistance to Nepal, I found them forthcoming in their support of the new democratic set up over here and willing to continue with their economic cooperation to Nepal in spite of recession in Finland," Koirala said.

He said his visit to Israel had reinforced the firendly ties established by his late brother B.P. Koirala some 30 years ago.

"Israel has agreed to extend technical cooperation on various fields like solar energy, cooperative services, windmills and agriculture farming," Koirala said.

Koirala also announced his government's decision to establish a commercial consulate in Tel Aviv in the near future.

He said during his meetings with business and industry leaders in the four countries he visited, he found a new interest in investment opportunities in Nepal as a result of various recent liberalisation measures taken by Nepal.

Referring to the violence on Friday inflicted by the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) (NCP-UML) and other communist factions, during the dawn-to-dusk general strike, Koirala said: "If the NCP-UML tries to press for their demands then that will not be acceptable to me."

"The NCP-UML talks highly of democratic values but they themselves are violating human rights norms," he said.

The NCP-UML had called for the general strike on Friday to protest a governmment report which attributed the deaths of two of their leaders in a jeep crash in May to negligence.

Asked whether he would agree to the demands for an all-party commission to reinvestigate into the deaths, Koirala said: "The NCP-UML leaders congratulated me when I constituted a one-man judicial inquiry commission under the chairmanship of former Supreme Court Justice Prachand Raj Anil but now they are not accepting the commission's report on the accident."

Pakistan

Official Reacts to U.S. Raid on Baghdad

BK2806083093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 28 Jun 93

[Text] Pakistan has asked the countries which support punitive attacks on Iraq to6 act in a similar manner in the face of Serbian aggression in Bosnia. Similarly, the people of Kashmir and Palestine also deserve to be treated by the same yardstick by the international community. In a ftatement in the National Assembly today on the American missile attack on Iraq, the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, said thousands of people have been killed by naked aggression in Bosnia and human rights grossly violated. He said Pakistan condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations whether it is directed against individuals or states. At the same time, Pakistan regrets and is deeply concerned at the loss of lives as a result of the American missile attack on Baghdad. He said Pakistan has urged all sides to exercise restraint and avoid use of force in the interests of peace and stability in the region. He said Pakistan's ambassador in Baghdad visited the damaged sites. Six people were killed and 16 injured in the attack.

Prime Minister, President Hold Meeting 27 June

BK2706143893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, had a meeting with the President Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [President's House] today. The meeting lasted 90 minutes.

Talking to newsmen at the gate of Aiwan-i-Sadr, the prime minister described his one-to-one meeting with the president as good. It was the first direct contact between the prime minister and the president after April 14th.

Earlier, the prime minister chaired a meeting of the PML [Pakistan Muslim League] parliamentary party and its coalition partners. Addressing the meeting, he urged the politicians to rise above their personal interests and work for the betterment of the masses in order to make the country strong and prosperous.

Referring to the government-opposition talks, the prime minister said he is even ready to hold one-to-one talks with the opposition leaders with a view to achieving tangible results in the reconciliation talks the government team is having with the opposition parties.

Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said the people from Khyber to Karachi are behind the present government. Therefore, the demand for holding elections is meaningless. Despite a majority in parliament, we want to maintain an atmosphere of mutual cooperation as we always hold the national interest supreme.

Referring to the Eighth Amendment, the prime minister said it is the demand of the entire nation and some PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] members also want to do away with this amendment.

The prime minister paid rich tributes to the Country's Armed forces for their impartiality and said the nation holds its armed forces in high esteem for their role in the defense of the motherland.

Mr. M. Hamza, Mian Abdul Waheed, Maulana Moinuddin Lakhvi, Mr. Ajmal Khattack—MNA's [members of the National Assembly]—Federal Ministers Mr. Ghulam Dastagir Khan and Mr. Mohammd Ejazul Haq and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo also addressed the meeting. In their speeches, they lauded the role of the prime minister in the promotion of democracy and progress of the country. They also called for eschewing the politics of confrontation and said the country's problems should be solved through dialogue and negotiations.

Sharif Says Talks 'Constructive'

BK2706161493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has said his meeting with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan was positive and constructive and hoped it will lead to positive changes in the political atmosphere.

Addressing a crowded news conference at the Prime Minister's House in Islamabad today, he said he told the president that he came to meet the president, forgetting all the bitterness of the past. The prime minister said the president told him he has accepted the Supreme Court verdict under the spirit of the Constitution and that the president and prime minister should work together with mutual trust in the interests of the country.

Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said he drew the president's attention to the violation of the Constitution in Punjab and explained that the situation is a matter of concern for the federal government. He said the president agreed with him that relations between the center and provinces should be in keeping with the Constitution. The prime minister said the federal government can use its authority under Articles 148 and 149 of the Constitution under which the federal government can direct the provinces to run their affairs in accordance with the Constitution and law.

Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said that during the meeting the president categorically said it is the task of the federal government to decide to conduct elections in the country. The prime minister made it clear that elections will be held on the completion of the present government's term in 1995. He expressed the hope that the outcome of the meeting will be positive, as was the atmosphere during the meeting.

In reply to a question, the prime minister said the situation in Punjab Province as it existed on 17 April should be restored in its real sense. He said that being the authoritative body, it is the parliament's responsibility to do away with the Eighth Amendment. The prime minister said the joint session of the parliament scheduled for 29 June has its own significance and importance. The parliament may make decisions on a number of important issues.

In reply to a question, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said the federal government can take action if a province fails to function according to the Constitution. He said that changes in Punjab are unnatural as the present provincial government does not have the people's mandate nor does it enjoy the support of the assembly members. He said that changing governors is within the authority of the federal government. But we want to settle this issue through mutual reconciliation. In reply to a question, the prime minister expressed the hope that the Punjab Government will allow the provincial assembly members to attend the session and they will not be harassed nor will they be obstructed from attending the session.

About his meeting with the army chief yesterday, Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said this is the first time in the country's history that the Army has been completely neutral and wants to devote its attention to professional matters. He said Pakistan is lucky that the Army chief is not taking any interest in politics and is playing an important role in dissociating the Army from politics.

When asked to comment on the All-Party Conference decision to not hold talks with the government, the prime minister said he held a meeting with Allama Sajid Naqvi, chief of the Tehrik-i-Nifaz-i- Fiqah-i-Jafria, today and he wants to meet other opposition leaders as well.

Bhutto Says Meeting 'Positive Change'

BK2706152893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Benazir Bhutto, leader of the opposition in the National Assembly, has described the meeting between the president and the prime minister as a positive change. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad today, she said the country is faced with an extremely grave political crisis.

Answering questions, Benazir Bhutto demanded that the Political Parties Act be fully safeguarded to prevent floor-crossing in the assemblies. She said the people are fed up with people changing affiliations.

She said her party not only wishes to abolish the Constitution's Eighth Amendment, but also wants redistribution of powers after the amendment is abolished. She again demanded that fresh elections be held.

Army Chief Meets Separately With Sharif, Khan

BK2706130893 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 27 Jun 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—The Chief of the Army Staff General Abdul Waheed Saturday held separate meeting with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

The Army chief held in-depth consultations on routine professional matters and prevailing situation in the country with the Prime Minister. The meeting may prove to be a turning point in resolving the current political unrest.

This was his second meeting with the Prime Minister since restoration of Nawaz government. Earlier, he had a meeting with the Prime Minister and congratulated him on restoration of National Assembly and his government on the day the Supreme Court announced its judgement.

Though no body [words indistinct] about the two and half hour-long discussion between the political and military leaders, sources close to the Prime Minister claimed that "the General informed the PM about the feeling of the army in the present confrontation between politicians, particularly growing tension between the President and the PM."

President Says Elections Only Way To Solve 'Crisis'

BK2506113193 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 25 Jun 93 p 3

[Text] Islamabad, June 24—President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has stated that the only way out of the present political crisis was elections. This is the unanimous demand of all political parties except Muslim League and ANP [Awami National Party].

The President said this while having a meeting with Taj Mohammad Khan Langah, President Pakistan Saraiki Party. The meeting continued for 40 minutes.

The President further stated that the crisis will further deepen if elections were not held, which [words indistinct] the president [words indistinct] that the government and the opposition should conclude their ongoing negotiations resulting in a viable solution.

Taj Mohammad Langah told PDA that President paid full attention to the demands of Pakistan Saraiki Party and to the problems of the deprived and suffering people of the Saraiki area.

All-Party Conference Demands Midterm Elections

BK2706030493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] An all-party conference was held in Islamabad yesterday under the chairmanship of Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan. The meeting was attended by 50 delegates representing three political alliances—PDA [People's Democratic Alliance], NDA [National Democratic Alliance], IJM [Islami Jamhoori Mahaz]—and other political parties. NDA General Secretary Abdul Hafiz Pirzada later told reporters that the conference demanded new midterm elections under a new Election Commission and the dissolution of the National Assembly and the Sindh and Balochistan provincial assemblies. The meeting participants criticized the convening of the joint session of parliament on the eighth day of the Muslim month of Muharram. You may recall that while talking to reporters yesterday, Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif had clarified that the joint session of parliament is being held before the ninth and 10th days of Muharram.

Federal Commerce Minister Malik Naim Khan has urged all democratic elements in the country to rise above party politics and assist in strengthening democratic institutions. Talking to reporters in Islamabad, he denied that the NDA had been assured that midterm elections will be held, as claimed by NDA Secretary General Abdul Hafiz Pirzada. The federal minister, who had led the government reconciliatory committee during negotiations with the NDA leaders, said he never gave such an assurance. He added that during political negotiations, a host of issues are discussed, but it does not mean that any side has accepted any particular point of the other party. He regretted that in spite of respecting democratic values, the members of the all-party conference are persistent in their demand for the dissolution of assemblies.

Speaking to reporters in Lahore yesterday, Awami National Party President Ajmal Khattak strongly opposed the call for midterm elections. He said if the process of dissolving the assemblies goes on, it will harm the political and democratic process in the country. He said his party understands that the present government must be allowed to complete its term.

Bhutto, Others Comment

BK2706114593 Islamabad THE NATION in English 27 Jun 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—PPP [Pakistan People's Party] co-Chairperson Beuazir Bhutto has hinted that the prevailing political crisis has brought the country on the verge of civil war.

Talking to newsmen after attending the All Parties Conference [APC] on Saturday [26 June], Ms Bhutto said that the crisis which has engulfed the whole country is grave and it could lead the country to destruction and civil war. She said the manner in which relations of the

Federal and Provincial governments have deteriorated, the country is heading towards deep trouble. "There is every chance that agencies of the federal government and provinces might clash with one another any time", Ms Bhutto remarked.

When asked about the remedy, for this crisis she said that the President and the Prime Minister both enjoy powers under the Constitution to dissolve assemblies and announce fresh elections. "Either one of them should act fast and exercise his power to dissolve assemblies." She described the Saturday's APC as a success saying that the decisions were absolutely unanimous. To a question, she said she did not think that there was any threat of martial law.

NPP [National People's Party] leader Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi which talking to newsman, said that the system is fast collapsing and everybody including politicians should feel their responsibility to steer the country out of crisis and correct things. About any possibility of martial law, he said that he had always opposed it and would continue to do so. Hamid Nasir Chattba reiterated his stand that the elections are the only solution. When asked why the government is trying to avoid elections, he said the problem lies with the Prime Minister House.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that the government does not have the people's mandate and the system is being run through the judiciary. The government should seek rapprochment with the political parties and not with the President. He said that is not a democratic process to drag political issues to the courts because the judiciary cannot resolve them.

'Long March' Against Sharif Planned

BK2706135093 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 27 Jun 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—The All-Parties Conference [APC] at its crucial meeting Saturday [26 June] decided to launch a long march against the Nawaz Sharif government in the second week of July.

An opposition leader told THE NEWS on condition of anonymity that the APC had deliberated on the issue of mass mobilization to pressurize the President for action against the Nawaz government and assemblies.

The APC leaders also discussed the strategy to save Manzoor Wattoo government in Punjab. The All-Parties Conference had also decided to target the conduct of the [word indistinct] during their mass mobilization campaign against the government.

PDA Not To Attend 29 Jun Joint Parliament Sitting

BK2506111793 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 25 Jun 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, June 24—Begum Nusrat Bhutto, Chairperson Pakistan People's Party (PPP) said here that the opposition would not attend the joint sitting of the Parliament if it took place on 29th of this month. "We have made it clear that the three days commencing from the 29th will be of great significance and sacred for the Muslims due to Ashura Muharram [Muslim festival] and no sensible member would like to attend any such meeting during these days."

She was talking to journalists informally during the lunch break of the National Assembly in the cafeteria of the parliament house on Thursday afternoon.

To a query she said that the opposition had not been taken into confidence since the joint sitting. If it was not postponed, then the members, not only belonging to the opposition, but also a number of the members from the treasury benches would not attend the meeting, she observed.

She said that the opposition had no knowledge about any plan of the government to impeach the President, during the joint sitting of Parliament. In case such a move was initiated, the Central Executive Committee [CEC] of the PPP would take any ultimate decision in this regard, she added.

Responding to another question, Begum Nusrat Bhutto said that the PPP would support only those moves which are aimed at scrapping of the whole 8th amendment of the Constitution. If no initiative was made to eliminate the amendment partly, then the CEC of the PPP would make a decision, she said.

She said that the People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) would nominate another member for the special committee set up to review amendments in the Constitution. Ms Benazir Bhutto would give the name after comsulting the party.

The Chairperson of the PPP said that the government-PDA negotiations could not be successful because the government was not sincere in making a breakthrough. "I am pessinistic about the negotiations."

Begum Nusrat Bhutto sqaid to another question that Murtaza Bhutto would return to the country only after issuance of notification according amnesty to him by no less a person than the President of Pakistan. A few friends of Murtaza Bhutto had taken up this matter with the Pesident. "We were told that the President can issue such notification with the consent of the army and the Prime Minister."

"We have also been told that the army had no objection on repatriation of Murtaza Bhutto", she added.

She said that she had not met the President but she was prepared to meet him for obtaining amnesty for Murtaza Bhutto. "I will not make such a request to the Prime Minister. If Nawaz Sherif has to allow Murtaza Bhutto to come back I will ask my son not to come back in that case ", she said.

Begum Bhutto said in a choked voice that Murtaza was the only male heir left of her great husband and she would not allow anyone to become a source of threat for him. "My husband and other son were martyred, but Murtaza Bhutto cold not offer Fateha [prayers] on the graves of his father and brother."

To a query, Begum Bhutto said that neither Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan nor any other minister had met Murtaza Bhutto in Damascus.

When Begum Bhuuto was asked where children would be political heirs of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, Benazir's or Murtaza's, she made it clear that she would not ask any of the two to bring their children in politics or not. "It is no question. When many families in Pakistan have inserted as many as four members of their family in the arena of politics, why is this question raised in the case of Bhutto family," she said.

The chairperson of the PPP expressing her displeasure about the "somersault" of Syed Iftikhar Hussain Gillanl, termed him a turn coat and used the phrase of "lota" [stooge] for him. She said that "he is also a lota of another sort".

Postponement Demanded

BK2606154993 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Text] The Pakistan Democratic Alliance [PDA] parliamentary party meeting, with opposition leader Ms. Benazir Bhutto in the chair, was held in Islamabad this morning. The meeting demanded postponement of the joint session of the parliament in view of the holy Muharram. The meeting decided to nominate National Assembly member Syed Zafar Ali Shah to the committee formed by the speaker to examine articles of the Constitution. The meeting also decided to summon the PDA parliamentary party meeting on 27 June morning to chalk out the strategy for the joint session of the parliament.

Bhutto Warns Government Not To Endanger Federation

BK2606122993 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 26 Jun 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—Leader of the opposition, Benazir Bhutto has urged the government not to run the federation like four independent states, because "this is a dangerous game which may destroy its future".

Talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport on her arrival Friday [25 June] evening, Bhutto said she had "a few" complaints against the premier but respected his office. "Courtesies due to this respectful office must be paid, even if you disassociate yourself from the person holding that", she emphasised, when her attention was drawn towards the ongoing tussle between the centre and the provinces.

Commenting on the way the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] women were dragged, thrashed and punched by police in Karachi on Thursday Bhutto said, "if they were violating section 144 then they should have arrested them instead of using brutal force." "They were protesting against 'lotas' [stooges], which is their constitutional and legal right", Bhutto added.

Every citizen, Bhutto said, was worried about the unprecendented horse-trading, because it was humiliation of people's mandate and betrayal of respective parties' manifesto. She maintained that political system could not be strengthened unless 'lota' policy was checked. What action the federal government has taken against the Sindh government over massive human rights violations there? she questioned.

The joint sitting of the parliament scheduled for June 29, Bhutto said, "should be postponed as Muharram is a respectful month for the Muslims." Earlier, she recalled, the government tried to disturb the Bid of the legislations by calling an emergency session of the National Assembly.

Responding to a query about the formation of house committee to review amendments to the 1973 constitution, she said, "these are tactics to gain time till the verdict of the Lahore High Court." She maintained that simple majority was required to constitute such committees but this series of committees was not going to resolve the crisis.

About the rule of Syed Iftikhar Gilani, Bhutto said, "if he has violated the party discipline he would have to explain about that." She however, added, "this was highly immoral that on one side you (government) talk about dialogue while on the other try to buy our people."

Late Gen. Zia-ul-Haq, as well bought our 75 per cent central executive committee members but rest of the 25 per cent unheld the people's cause, she claimed and added "in war soldiers do die but we are unable to understand the effectiveness of Nawaz Shariff's new weapons". But, remember PPP is not merely a party, rather [it] is a thought, ideology and sea of emotions and no one can exploit it, she farther claimed.

Editorial Views 'Flimsy' U.S. Charges Over Terrorism

BK2706121393 Islamabad THE NATION in English 27 Jun 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Flimsy Propaganda"]

[Text] A significant admission was made by the acting American Ambassador to India in Madras the other day. He said that the U.S. had not found enough proof to justify labelling Pakistan a terrorist state. If such proof were to become available, the Ambassador continued, the US would proceed to declare Pakistan a terrorist state within a matter of months. Every time it seems as though the furore over this issue is dying down, something appears in the local or foreign media which lends it a new lease of life. The Ambassador's remarks is not the first time that responsible officials of the US administration have admitted the lack of any worthwhile evidence to back up the claims of interested lobbies that Pakistan be declared an international pariah. These lobbies exist within the American political establishment and are lent added strength by the Indian lobby which has of late been pulling out all the stops to damage the international image of Pakistan. Previously this unholy nexus between our traditional enemy and our erstwhile friend focused on the so-called Pakistani political support for the Kashmiri struggle for self-determination as a purely foreign inspired movement, a propaganda which has fallen flat because of the Indian government's unwillingness to allow international observers to study the situation in Kashmir for themselves, apart from the reports of human rights activists and the Indian Press itself. The failure of that campaign has been followed by the transparent attempt to concoct stories about the Pakistani hand behind the recent spate of bombings in Bombay and other Indian cities. Some sections of the Indian Press have been publishing such concoctions which reek of Indian Intelligence's heavy hand. The fact that this inspired propaganda has also failed to convince international opinion points to its inherent flimsiness.

We should be mentally prepared for an intensification of these efforts in direct proportion to their demonstrated inefficacy, an intensification which will likely receive a fillip from the appointment of a well known pro-India lobbyist, Mr Stephen Solarz as the next Ambassador to India. The other reason for such an anticpated intensification is that the US finds the issue a handy stick with which to beat us in order to bring pressure to bear to roll back our nuclear programme. If the US had a clearer understanding of where its interests in South Asia lie, it would realise that a continued one-sided bias which puts Pakistan in the dock on the nuclear and terrorist issue is unlikely to retain many friends for it in this country. Unless of course the US has abandoned any notion of retaining our friendship as the price of woing its new-found friend across the border.

Paper Views Tensions on Indian Border

BK2606125593 Islamabad THE NATION in English 26 Jun 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Tension on Border"]

[Text] It is for the first time in nearly two years that a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has expressed concern at the concentration of Indian troops at the Pakistan-India border. As recently as a few weeks ago, when apprehensions were expressed in the Press about the deployment of the Prithvi missile close to Pakistan's border by India, the Minister for Defence down-played it by saying that Prithvi was still in an experimental stage and its regular deployment would take a few years. The present COAS [Chief of Army Staff], General Waheed as well as his predecessor, the late Gen Asif Nawaz are on record having discounted any talk of threat from India. Looked at in this perspective, the expression of concern by our Foreign Office acquires added significance. The surprising part of that, however, is that despite the gravity of the subject, the Foreign Office appeared to be clueless about the dimension of the threat, the specific areas, outside of Kashmir, where the Indians are concentrating, the timing and the nature of their troops deployment. All the spokesman could say was that he would get more information from defence sources. This is hardly fair to the Press or to the people of Pakistan.

Three recent developments need special attention. One is the induction by India of yet another one hundred thousand troops, over and above the half a million that are already there in the Valley as well as on the Line of Control. All of them remain a part of the same army which sits elsewhere on the border. The second is bringing to the fore by India of its more advanced weaponry, including medium and long-range missiles. The third is the state of civil disorder in Pakistan which started with the PPP's [Pakistan People's Party] 'long march' and has continued with the dissolution of the National Assembly. The Asssembly's restoration has not helped in curing the basic malaise. Irrespective of Pakistan's political weakness providing a temptation for India to take military advantage, India's continuous beefing up of its troops cannot be attributed to a defensive posture alone. Our Army is alert, and will hopefully remain so, but our politicians are not. Would it be too much to expect a more comprehensive briefing from the Ministry of Defence on the subject than has been available from the Foreign Office?